Armstrong Atlantic State University Faculty Senate Actions

October 2011 Meeting

1. Faculty Senate Bill 051.11/12 Graduate Assistant Allocations

Academic Affairs Recommendations:

Faculty Senate Bill 051.11/12: Graduate Assistant Allocations remains under consideration. The recommended processes and policies entail a commitment that needs to involve the President’s Cabinet, as graduate assistantships are offered in Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Athletics, and non-academic departments on campus. Presently, GA positions include a variety of teaching, research, and service assignments. Changes to the system will need to involve a broad campus constituency to ensure that GA positions are utilized in ways that benefit graduate students, but also may involve restructuring the current system so that graduate student financial assistance opportunities are not lost.

The recommendations of the Graduate Assistant Task Force (Anita Nivens, Becky da Cruz, Regina Rahimi, Melanie Mirance, Bryan Riemann, minutes from September 14, 2011 attached) include recommendations for allocation and selection of graduate assistantships. These recommendations were approved by the Graduate Affairs Committee and the Faculty Senate in October 2011.

Dr. Anne Thompson and Dr. John Kraft met with Dr. Bryan Riemann, author of this bill, and Dr. Joey Crosby, Chair of the Graduate Affairs Committee, in January 2012. This year’s allocation of the graduate assistantships assigned to Academic Affairs followed the spirit of the recommendations of the bill. The selection committee allocated one GA slot to every graduate program represented in the applications for Academic Year 2012-13. Nine of the fourteen graduate programs submitted applications, and each program that submitted an application for a GA was approved. The remaining eight GA slots were allocated according to the ranking decisions of the committee. Only the four lowest ranked applications did not receive GAs. While this was an initial step in addressing the recommendations of the Task Force for allocation of Academic Affairs GA positions, the issues of selection committee membership, use of GA positions and tuition waivers for graduate student recruitment, and campus allocations need to be addressed.

Armstrong is committed to the support of graduate students through assistantships and campus work opportunities. Further discussion with the Faculty Senate, Graduate Affairs Committee, and President’s Cabinet should continue so that resolution can be reached in time for recruiting and admissions decisions for Fall 2013.

I recommend that a progress report be given to the Faculty Senate at the January 23, 2012 meeting.

Anne Thompson, Interim VPAA

01.21.12