Monday, September 19, 2016

9:00 a.m.

Present: Lynn Owens, Laura Pike, Sonja Sibert, Tami Mette (chair)

Absent: Kara Coates, Jim Stugelmayer, Steve Garcia

2016-2017 Available Funds

S. Sibert reported that the Comp & Benefits committee has a total of $3500 available to award for professional development during the 2016-2017 academic year. The committee members voted to allocate a total of $2100 in the fall 2016 semester and $1400 in the spring 2017 semester. The committee members unanimously approved a maximum of $350 per each approved applicant. S. Sibert did state that funds would be transferred from the fall to the spring semester if the allocated total for fall was not met.

Requests for Professional Development Funds

The committee reviewed three different requests for professional development funds. All were returned to the applicants for required completion needs. Decisions for fund allocation will be made at the first committee meeting following the October 31st deadline.

New Business

*Advisement form*: L. Pike posed a question regarding the advisement forms that faculty are to use during student advisements. Discussion ensued regarding the policy and the intent of the specific form that she received in her department. T. Mette will follow-up with further investigation as to the requirements of the use of the form and the discussion that took place during the 2015-2016 academic year. L. Pike was advised to inquire about the use of this form with the head of her department. The committee did determine, however, that Comp & Benefits wasn’t the committee that would address any changes or considerations for this form.

*Academic Affairs concern*: The Academic Affairs department had some questions about certain issues that were not currently covered in the Grants-in-Aid NSHE policy or the GBC Professional Advancement Policy. Thoughts and further clarification of the following issues were requested by the Academic Affairs department. These questions are as follows:

* Neither policy takes into consideration repetitive course involvement. Should reimbursement be granted for courses that are taken multiple times? This would only apply to the Professional advancement policy that is the only one of the two that we have the ability to change.
* Neither policy includes a statement as to the requirements of the applicant if a course, where reimbursement was provided, is not successfully completed. Should reimbursement be withheld until successful completion of each course, or should the applicant be required to pay back the amount reimbursed for the failed course at its conclusion? This would only apply to the Professional advancement policy that is the only one of the two that we have the ability to change. If Faculty senate feels strongly about recommending changes in the Grants-in-Aid policy, we can pursue that if necessary.
* In the past, funds have been awarded to individuals from both Grants-in-Aid and Professional Advancement funds at the same time. This meaning that instead of a limit of reimbursement for 6 credits, applicants can actually have up to 12 credits reimbursed if courses are being taken at both NSHE and non-NSHE institutions.

Meeting adjournment: 10:05 a.m.

Next Meeting: November 3rd, time and place to be announced.