November 11, 2013

Faculty,

It has been a while since I reported on the doings of Administrative Council. That was because not much has been happening that directly affects faculty.

In the lead-up to and post-Homecoming period, that event dominated the Council’s time. At the October 28 meeting it was interesting to hear about the successes and failures of Homecoming and Homecoming planning. For example, there was universal criticism of the long lines at the stadium, but, in general, praise for most of the plans.

In the October 14 meeting, Dr. James Mosely, Interim Vice President for Fiscal Affairs, noted that a few people and departments continue to not follow procedures in purchasing. I asked if there were faculty involved and he affirmed there were. When I asked if he saw any areas in particular where faculty were not following the correct procedures, eg., travel claims, he said there were not, and that most faculty and academic departments did well.

On October 28, Dr. Raphael Moffett, Vice President for Student Affairs, announced that his office was working on a “Student Travel Policy”. This was prompted by the return of a vehicle pool to the Langston campus of Langston University, and by a need for consistent policies and procedures. This will be an on-going project. I believe he will be in communication with faculty and departments that regularly do student travel. I’m sure Student Affairs would gladly field any inquiries or suggestions on the matter.

On November 4 I brought up the fact that there has not yet been announcement concerning awards of tenure and/or promotion for those who applied last spring. I was contacted by a person concerned about this and was thus made aware of the situation. In the meeting I noted that I understood there were some extenuating circumstances this year, but that faculty should not be left in contingency for that length of time. I know Dr. Montgomery was both aware of the situation and working on it. I told the Council that my comments were not to made to cast any blame but to simply emphasize that such decisions should be made with some alacrity.

Ms. Theresa Graves, Acting Chief of Staff to President Smith, stated that Departments will be getting new letterhead stationary, and that 200 people spread over all areas of the University will be getting new business cards with the new logo and rounded corners to make them distinctive. Because of the rounded corners, the cards are not printed on campus and getting cards for others who want them could take time.

In the November 4 meeting President Smith noted that we had 1,800 applicants for the Fall 2014 class already, and that the following week they would begin targeting high school juniors. He noted again that to a great degree the possibility of raises will depend upon the success of both recruitment and retention.

There is not a meeting of Administrative Council today. The next meeting will be on November 18. If anyone wishes to ask questions of me or to suggest a concern that might be brought before the Council, please contact me (X3434; jlshowalter@langston.edu).

I hope the remainder of the term is a good one for you all.

James Showalter

Interim Faculty Representative to the President’s Administrative Council