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Faculty turnover rate and the percentage of non-tenure track / temporary positions in Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Technology Programmes since 2000.

Submitted by Gautam Kundu

1/26/2005

Question:

The College of Science and Technology: Faculty turnover rate and the percentage of non-tenure track / temporary positions in Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Technology Programmes since 2000. How might the number / figure affect

- (a) the ABET accreditation that these programmes are presently seeking ?
- (b) current and future curricular stability and development in these programmes ?

Averitt School of Graduate Studies:

The current status of Dr. Hardy's efforts to raise the stipends for our graduate students. Also, would Dr. Hardy's office consider extending a non-monetary help to the Graduate Teaching Apprentices' in the form of "Faculty / Staff" parking privileges (and its attendant fees) so that, among other things, they can have a relatively easy time getting to their assigned classes to carry out their duties as TAs ?

Rationale:

The rationale for Q#1 is that I have heard some Engineering Technology Faculty express concern at the ongoing instability in these programmes due to unfilled faculty positions and the number of untenured / temporary in these three programmes.

As for Q#2, I think I do provide a rationale for the second part of the question. The first part comes out of Dr. Hardy's efforts in 2004 to help the grad students: how are we to

see any forward movement in this area in the light of the fiscal 2005-0006 budget ?

Response:

Dr. Jeanette Rice Jenkins gave a report at the February 9, 2005, Faculty Senate meeting with the response from the SEC to this request. The first dealt with the high turnover in the Engineering Technology programs since 2000, and wondered how that would affect program certification by ABET and curricular stability and development.

Dean Morrobel-Sosa from COST responded that the programs mentioned are served by nine faculty: five tenured, two tenure-track, and two full-time faculty, temporary full-time faculty. Two tenure-track searches are underway to fill two positions that were vacated by unsuccessful tenure decisions since 2000.

The composition of the faculty is not an issue with the accrediting body which requires only that each program have a permanent faculty as program coordinator and that the four-year degree programs be staffed by the equivalent of three full-time faculty. GSU's programs meet both requirements. Current and future stability depends on the ability of Georgia Southern to identify and secure qualified faculty hires in the Engineering Technology programs that exhibit the desired attributes of Georgia Southern faculty and embrace the expectations of Georgia Southern's teacher/scholar model. Objectives that are being aggressively pursued by the Director of the School of Technology. The second part of Senator Kundu's RFI dealt with efforts to raise graduate student's stipends and whether non-monetary amenities could be provided such as staff parking.

Dean Charles Hardy advised that data collection on stipends from peer and aspirational institutions is being collected and that graduate stipends were at the top of the College's budget request to the Provost, not only to increase the amount, but also the number. The College is working with the Development Office to develop their capital campaign model and Dean Hardy noted that both Provost and the President are supportive of efforts to enhance GSU's ability to meet the need of graduate students. With regard to parking perks, that needs to go through the Parking and Transportation Committee, and Dean Hardy has begun discussions on that front with the Acting Vice President for Business and Finance Joe Franklin. As a point of information, your Senate reps on that committee are Gautum Kundu from COST and Bob Fernekes from the Library. So if you want to complain, complain to them. Dean Hardy is happy to meet with anybody who is interested in discussing this topic.