

Faculty Senate Meeting
January 25, 2017 Draft Minutes
Approved February 8th

Singer Hall, room 100 and via ZOOM, 3:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order: 2:57 p.m.

2. Roll Call:

Present: Coggins, Kip (School of Social Work); Ensor, Kevin (Counseling & Guidance); Gadsden, Gloria (Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice); Harrington, Edward (Visual & Performing Arts); Jeffries, John (Computer Science & Math); Jenkins, Kathy (Exercise & Sport Sciences); Kempner, Brandon (English & Philosophy); Lindline, Jennifer (Natural Resources); Meckes, Shirley (Teacher Education); Meron, Angela (Media Arts & Technology); Rodriguez, Elaine (History & Political Science); Romine, Maureen (Biology); Sammeth, David (Chemistry); Williams, Emily (School of Education); Williamson, Ian (Psychology); Zebrowski, Cheryl (Library)

Excused: Burns, Jim (Educational Leadership);

Absent: Ortiz, Luis (School of Business);

Also Present: Linder, Carol (VPAA/Provost); Tutor, Michael, proxy for Padilla, Julian (Student Senate); Vargas, Edgar; Deacon, Rob; Romero, Eric; Cronin, Jerry

- 3. Approval of Agenda:** - MOTION MADE AND SECONDED to approve the agenda. Motion approved unanimously
- 4. Approval of Minutes:** – MOTION MADE AND SECONDED to approve the Minutes from November 30th. Motion passed unanimously
- 5. HLC Update**
- a. Postponed to General Faculty meeting
- 6. Communication from the Administration**
- a. Dr. Linder reported that several new faculty were hired over the break.
 - b. Next Board of Regents meeting will be February 3rd, and Cristina Duran, new Dean of Social Work will be making a presentation. Faculty are welcome to attend.
 - c. The new provost will be starting April 10th.
- 7. Communication from the Chair**
- a. Faculty cannot change modalities after the semester begins, based on several policies, and not fair to students. You need to articulate how you want to teach the class when the schedule is set. Double check the modality in Banner before the semester begins.
 - b. Other communication will be presented at the General Faculty meeting.
- 8. Communication from Academic Affairs**
- a. Moving forward with program reviews.

- b. Michael Raine will contact departments for catalog revisions.
- c. The Psychology MS without a thesis program was approved.

9. Communication from the Student Senate

- a. The Student Senate feels that if Dr. Kempner runs for Faculty Senate Chair next year, they would protest it as a conflict of interest.
- b. They feel that there is racial inequity in faculty leadership.
 - i. The Faculty Senators feel that these comments are offensive and inappropriate, without doing proper research. Dr. Kempner stated last fall he would not run for senate chair. Senators are properly elected by their departments.
- c. They are looking at a filing a potential lawsuit against the State Higher Education Commission.
- d. They feel that the process for selecting the student regent was not followed. They are suggesting that the process be changed so that the student rep be elected by the students.
- e. The Legislative initiative is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 17th. Please RSVP if you will be able to attend. It was suggested that a letter/email be drafted requesting that faculty not penalize students if they miss class by attending, as well as outlining the goals of this initiative.

10. Communication from the Staff Senate

- a. No one present

11. Old Business

- a. None

12. New Business:

- a. Class minimums and cancellations
 - i. Discussion regarding the changes to the state funding formula. Now need to determine the break-even point. Need to look at whole program and departments, not just individual classes.
 - ii. MOTION MADE AND SECONDED to charge the Academic Affairs Committee to develop a policy on class minimums and cancellations.
 - iii. Motion modified to also develop a process for notifying students of class cancellations.
 - iv. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. DISCUSSION ITEM: Upcoming Faculty Senate elections
 - i. Nominations will be solicited at the February 8th meeting. Nominees should spend a few minutes explaining their platform.
 - ii. Senators should consult their departments on who they feel should be elected.
 - iii. How should voting work?
 - a) After some discussion, the following process was put forward. If someone has an overwhelming majority (51% or more) of the vote, they should be elected. Otherwise, additional ballots, dropping the lowest candidate each time, will be taken until a nominee receives a majority (51%).

- c. Eric Romero and several students presented an update on the proposed Sanctuary Campus Status.
 - i. Rather than be declared a Sanctuary Campus, they would now like cooperation with faculty to create a safe zone for all students, not just undocumented ones.
 - ii. Might need an ad hoc committee of the Faculty Senate.
 - iii. As diversity is one of our values, we need to determine how to measure it.
 - iv. Faculty feel this is an important issue and will help.

- d. Issues to tackle Spring 2017:
 - i. Contact Dr. Kempner with your comments and suggestions.
 - a) Faculty Credentials HLC Policy
 - b) Outcomes Assessment
 - c) Chair elections
 - d) Faculty Senate Officer elections
 - e) Evaluation of Center for Teaching Excellence
 - f) Evaluation of Administrators
 - g) Survey of Contingent Faculty on Contingent Faculty Handbook + Evaluation
 - h) Retreat rights for administrative hires
 - i) Disruptive student policy
 - j) Interim policy

13. Committee Reports and Announcements

14. Meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m.