

April 5, 2024, Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Opening: Quorum established. Meeting called to order at 1:05pm.; Meeting agenda approved

In attendance: Faculty Senate Chair, Patrick Villa; Faculty Senate Chair-Elect, Valerie Conner, Faculty Senate Past Chair, Tracy Sherman

Senators Present:

Jacob Bakke
Jeff Fulmer
Lily Morningstar
James Pristas
Margaret Taylor
James Harvey
Valerie Hecht
Michael Kimball
Amy Litman
Melissa Weinstein
Kay Doxilly
Paul Minto
Darryl Raiford
Brett Winkelhake
Sondra Cosgrove
Joshua Levin
LaDella Levy
John Min
Flora Rudacille
Cheryce Campbell-Davis
Joann Gutschick
Gina McDade
Carla Wright
Emily Pattni
Ayla Koch
Jim Matovina
Laura Roots
Kristian Schlick

Senators Absent:

Richard Sorrentino
Amy Palmer (Esther Pla-Cazares—proxy)

Proxies

Esther Pla-Cazares (Amy Palmer)

Guests:

Michael Denman

Nancy Webb

Ken Betita

Public Comment

- Safety concerns
 - Senator says students were removed/dismissed from class in health sciences course and legal counsel returned them to class. Other class members are upset and concerned. Faculty are as well.
 - Students have written threatening things and legal counsel says that the students are not “dangerous”
 - Concerns about similar issue in Arts and Letters, in which such students are not seen as threats
 - Chair-elect Valerie Conner says “A threat is a threat”.
- Action Items
 - Vote to remove Senator Brett Winkelhake
 - Senator says it is unethical to ask to have a senator removed.
 - Senate Parliamentarian Jim Matovina said that the Senate bylaws state that the Senate Chair can call for removal of a senator when he/she misses two consecutive meetings without a proxy.
 - Motion to remove Brett Wnkelhake.
 - 2/3 vote needed
 - Senate voted unanimously not to remove Brett. Motion fails
 - Approval of March meeting minutes
 - Approved unanimously with the addition of Kristian’s name to the attendance roster.
- Info/Action Items
 - Emergency Policy Change related to “ghost students”
 - Students need to show up the first day or make contact with the instructor, otherwise they aren’t there.
 - Administrative drop option for non-participation in week 1
 - Dr. McCoy says that they are starting to realize how many “ghost” students there are.
 - It amounts to hundreds of thousands of dollars.
 - Attempting to get a stop-gap for existing ghost students and ways to prevent future ones.
 - President must change enrollment rules

- Dr. Avalos says that none of the current policies allow for student removal administratively.
 - All of the current language deals with financial aid disbursement
 - They don't have the tools to remove a student before registering and can we remove them once they are in—by blocking them or putting holds on registration
 - Senator question about appropriate time frames to measure attendance. Students come on the first day and they are counted, but what about a few weeks in?
 - Dr. Avalos says they want to catch it on the front end so those students don't even have an opportunity to register
 - The Department of Education has specific requirements for signalling participation.
 - Questions about how to determine if a student who doesn't show up is an existing student; what safeguards are in place for catching people; and what steps can be taken to inform students?
 - Dr. Avalos says the information needs to go out to the whole community.
 - Regarding faculty who don't comply—Dr. McCoy said a query will go out to chairs about impacted faculty. The chairs will then deal with their individual faculty members
 - This process is going forward starting in Spring 2024. They want to catch people as soon as possible so they can't register if they're a Bot, and won't receive financial aid.
 - The major change is that faculty need to report non-attendance earlier than before—many faculty haven't done it at all because it hasn't been asked of us.
 - Syllabus Policy
 - Passes unanimously
 - AFA Evaluation Policy
 - Nancy Webb says there wasn't any policy for evaluation of administrative faculty. Evaluation is for the purpose of merit pay
 - Classified Council saw the policy, and now the policy is being brought to faculty senate.
 - AFA is also getting a month to read it
 - On agenda for a vote at the May faculty senate meeting
- Chair Update
 - Reminder to vote—elections close April 14
 - Shared Governance Statement
 - There is a group working on it
 - They are trying to come up with a definition of shared governance. Patrick doesn't want a word in front of "consensus".
 - Send Patrick any feedback on the statement

- They want to make the language stronger
 - Search/hiring committee Concerns
 - He wants to make sure everyone knows the rules
 - Search committees no longer need to do a credential review
 - Search committee is required to meet with the hiring committee
 - HR isn't always aware of differences between degrees and not qualified to do a credential review
 - Search and hiring committees don't have to use HR credential forms
 - To know the rules for screening/hiring committees, look at the CBA
 - There were concerns that there might be some searches that use the review and some that don't, so is that equitable? Patrick said because all departments are different, it's fine if the searches are different
 - Safety and Security Update
 - Resolution to lock doors
 - Legal counsel won't allow locking because CSN is an open institution
 - There has been temporary locking of the Math suite
 - Just because CSN is public, that doesn't mean open access
 - Need for a faculty safety committee
 - Faculty members with concerns about being in the classroom
 - Chairs have discretion for modality, so faculty can't just decide to teach only online
 - Senate Administrative Assistant
 - Someone selected five weeks ago and will start on April 8
- Info Item—Policy on Policies
 - Policy will have provisions so we have more opportunities to give feedback on policies
 - More smaller feedback loops
 - Student Body President Pio Rejas said that they want to figure out a way to make sure all groups have a way to pitch in. They don't want policies to be delayed because one person doesn't care about a policy
 - Patrick says this provides for a good representations of different groups.
 - There are a couple of new committees that are part of these groups—they can see the policies and bring them back to the group
 - Patrick wants senators to look at the flow chart and give feedback
 - The policy can be revised each year
 - Legal counsel wouldn't accept any policies because we didn't have a policy on policies, so the senate's hands were tied
 - People like the idea of a decay system—if it doesn't work, it can just go away
 - Tracy said there are holes in the policy, but there is accreditation pressure
- Presidential Search Registry
 - To get an acting president

- The interim chancellor wants the new president to start June 1st to overlap with Dr. Z., but Dr. Z. may not be on campus very much in June
- Patrick wants to get the search going for a permanent president
- The registry is a list of retired presidents who agree to come in on a temporary capacity, and who are not eligible to apply for the full-time position
- Committee Chair Reports
 - Evaluation and Workload
 - The evaluation forms look nothing like the job description or tenure application
 - People are being evaluated on things that aren't in the job description
 - They want to evaluate people in a way that gets them ready for tenure
 - Ad hoc First-Year Experience
 - Request to have the committee's recommendations on the May agenda
 - Tenure Committee
 - Trying to get the process started right from when a person is hired—get new hires a mentor right away
- Shared Governance
 - AFA—Jeff Fulmer
 - Remote work policy discourages administrative faculty from participating
 - They want a policy developed by shared governance instead of just mandated by HR.
 - Student Government—Pio Rejas
 - Attendance at the meeting is great exposure to how the faculty senate works
- New Business
 - Any updates on conference fees in the travel budgets
 - Religious exemptions in health sciences classes—how should they be handled?
 - Concerns about workplace environment survey

Next meeting May 3, at West Charleston

Meeting adjourned at 4:32pm.