

Faculty Senate
Minutes*
Wednesday, March 12, 2014
3:00 p.m.
Classroom Building 118

**corrected at the Faculty Senate Meeting, March 26, 2014*

I. Call to order

Sen. Moretti called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Attending:

Daniel Althoff	Layne Heitz
Martin Bressler	Jennifer Hicks
Dennis Brewster	George Jacox
Han-Sheng Chen	Christopher Moretti
Kay Daigle	Halet Poovey
Blythe Duell	Krista Ramirez
Brett Elliott	Rhonda Richards
Steven Emge	Jacob Wallace
William Fridley	

Not attending:

Riley Coker
 Diane Dixon
 Tristan Eggener
 Alistair Maer
 John Mischo
 Robert Stevens
 Jerry Stout

Guest:

Christala Smith

II. Approval of minutes from the meeting on February 26, 2014

Sen. Poovey moved to approve the Minutes.

Sen. Duell seconded the Motion.

The Motion to approve the Minutes passed: 13 in favor; none opposed; no abstentions.

III. Committee Reports

A. Committee on Committees: Sen. Emge *and Sen. Wallace* reported there were two openings to be filled on the Traffic Appeals Committee for the remainder of the school year. The Committee on Committees has nominated Jeremy Blackwood (Music) and Will James Stacey (Art, Communication & Theatre) to those positions.

Sen. Elliott moved to approve the nominations submitted by the Committee on Committees.

Sen. Hicks seconded the motion.

The Motion to approve the nominations passed: 16 in favor; none opposed; no abstentions.

Sen. Bressler raised the question of whether faculty representation is needed on that committee according to the APPM. The Committee on Committees is requested to examine and clarify the issue.

B. Personnel Policies Committee: Sen. Althoff reported that the PPC had met on February 28 with Bryon Clark. The meeting involved an informal debriefing from Dr. Clark concerning the recently

completed campus visit by the team from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), followed by continued editing of Chapter 6 of the Academic Policies and Procedures Manual.

- C. Planning Committee:** It was reported that the process for the Faculty Senate Awards is going as planned: emails to nominees have been sent (responses due by Friday, March 21) and voting will begin after spring break (March 17-21).

D. Executive Committee:

Forum on Shared Governance rescheduled 4/21, 2-4 p.m.

Sen. Moretti announced to Senators that the Shared Governance Forum, canceled due to weather on March 3, has been rescheduled for April 21st. The Faculty Senate's choice of topic will be adjunct issues; it is likely the Administration will be discussing budget issues.

Executive Committee meeting with the President

Sen. Moretti reported that the Executive Committee met with the President on March 7.

Draft Notes from the Meeting with President Minks, prepared by Sen. Moretti

Item 1 - HLC Visit

The overall impression is that the visit went well.

There will be some back and forth (correcting statements of fact, etc.) but the HLC decisions/final report will be in December.

Positives/Strengths:

Assessment Finances

Planning Complaint processes

Enrollment Management Federal Compliance

Retention/Title III Maintaining the number of full-time faculty (surprising)

Challenges:

Energy around the university mission (good fit, but not focused)

Faculty disengagement

Facilities and deferred maintenance

Item 2 - Finances/Budget

Initial proposal is to cut higher ed 5% to enable a 0.25% reduction in state income tax (our cut would be ~\$996,840, which would not count increases in mandatory costs). The Senate may be opposed to the cuts, and the Chancellor has met with 5 key individuals in the House and Senate about this.

We are short about \$145,000 due to an enrollment decline.

A 1% change in tuition would increase revenue by about \$131,470.

Items from the Senate:

Item 1 - Potential OTRS Changes

Dr. Althoff asked about a rumor that there was movement towards changing OTRS from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan. President Minks had not heard anything about it, but would keep an eye out for information in the future.

Item 2 - Marketing Plan

Dr. Moretti asked about the possibility of faculty involvement in developing the University's marketing plan (and what the current plan is). President Minks noted that other than the addition of Luke Willman for social media, the current plan (which he wrote) is the one linked in the HLC report (SE Marketing Plan 2010-2011). He was open to faculty involvement in developing the plan in the future (possibly by faculty involvement with a task force).

Item 3 - Upcoming Senate Survey

Dr. Moretti mentioned that the Executive committee is looking at revising some of the current survey questions and invited President Minks to give any feedback on questions that might need to be added, dropped, or changed.

Sen. Moretti also noted that the department chairs have been requested to comment on the revised Post Tenure Review process.

E. Budget Committee: Has not met. Sen. Moretti reported that Vice President Walkup has forwarded CUPA comparative data to Sens. Dixon and Moretti. The data are more complicated than expected, as they show divisions by discipline and not by university.

F. University Affairs Committee: Met last Tuesday on Social Media.

IV. Old Business: There was no old business.

V. New Business

Sen. Fridley invited the Senate and all SE faculty to attend the AAUP State Conference meeting being held on campus, Saturday, April 5. There is no registration fee and breakfast and lunch are being provided.

Sen. Duell expressed a widely shared sense of frustration at the complexities of encumbering funds for functions such as travel and obtaining reimbursement for expenses; for example, why doesn't a travel award automatically encumber funds? Discussion then led to the need for examining the documents posted at the university website to identify the problem areas with a view to simplifying the process. The suggestion was made for the Personnel Policies Committee to examine the issue.

VI. Adjournment

**A Motion to adjourn was made by Sen. Heitz and seconded by Sen. Elliott.
The Senate adjourned at 3:45 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Althoff

Daniel Althoff
Recorder