

Faculty Senate Minutes
Wednesday, April 6, 2016
3:00 PM: General Classroom Building 118
Hyperlinks to supporting documents are included

I. Call to Order and Welcome – Faculty Senate Chair Steven Emge called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

a. Attending:

Daniel Althoff

Diane Dixon

Chris Moretti

Jeremy Blackwood

Steven Emge

Krista Ramirez

Han-Sheng Chen

William Fridley

Patrick Schoettmer

Riley Coker

Tom Harvey

Kay Daigle

Brad Ludrick

b. Not Attending

Martin Bressler

Blythe Duell

George Jacox

Hal Poovey

c. Guests –

Karl Frinkle

Carolyn Fridley

Meg Cotter-Lynch

II. Approval of the minutes from March 23, 2016

a. Sen. Coker moved to accept the minutes, Sen. Dixon seconded. The motion passed 12 in favor - 0 opposed - 0 abstention.

III. Committee Reports

a. Executive Committee – The Executive Committee met with President Burrage on March 21 to discuss the recent budget cuts and to better understand how decisions were made in the non-renewal of contracts for personnel. The committee had questions concerning what the factors were in regards to making the decisions and who was involved in the decision making process. Some committee members felt as though the criterion may not have been substantial enough for non-renewal of personnel contracts. The Executive Committee was also informed of the selling of the Equestrian Center.

Sen. Dixon asked if there was a discussion on whether the Senate should send a recommendation to the President asking for a set of criteria to be explored should the university come into the situation where there will be non-renewals of personnel because of budget cuts. The Faculty Senate will continue to discuss this topic on their Blackboard site and will create a list of priorities before sending anything to President Burrage.

b. University Affairs – No Report

c. Committee on Committees – Email has been distributed to all faculty members with a link to SurveyMonkey to list their preference for service to the university through the various committees. The faculty should respond by Tuesday, April 12.

d. Planning – The responsibilities for the Planning Committee the Faculty Senate Awards for this year’s Faculty and Staff Recognition Celebration are nearly complete. The event will be held Monday, April 25 at 4:00 PM in Montgomery Auditorium.

e. Budget – The budget committee is meeting with the Presidential Advisory Budget Committee on Thursdays at 12:30 PM. This group will be working with Dennis Westman to begin creating a structure and procedure on a new budget process for the university.

IV. Old Business

a. Freshman Orientation Course Discussion - Sen. Ludrick brought attention concerning how administration set guidelines for faculty concerning courses such as Freshman Orientation (College Success). This is in regards to an e-mail that was sent to the faculty who teach College Success courses from Dr. Tim Boatman on Wednesday, March 9. In the email, Dr. Boatman was informing the instructors that they would be moving away from the required Feldman “Power of Learning” textbook in order to reduce the costs of books for students. Alternatively, a group working with Dr. Boatman has been developing “SE College Success,” a webpage for students and instructors to utilize.

Sen. Ludrick’s concern is the amount of faculty involvement in the process – especially those who have specialty areas for this course. Other concerns throughout the Senate centered on Administration taking a role to dictate decisions for the classroom, that costs cannot be the only deciding factor for making classroom decisions, and that there is no mechanism to watch for procedural changes with the College Success courses since the course is not housed in any particular department.

Dr. Tim Boatman will be asked to come to Faculty Senate to help the Senate understand what is being asked of the College Success instructors.

b. Administrative/Academic Reorganization Scenario – Sen. Fridley presented “A Proposed Experiment – A New Agreement” highlighting another option for the scenarios for the Administrative/Academic Reorganization. A lively discussion was had by Faculty Senators and guests in regards to possible department consolidations, the incentivizing of cooperation among faculty, prioritizing a work list/timeline for making changes – in general, giving thought to the myriad of possibilities.

c. Adjournment: Sen. Morretti moved the senate adjourn. There was no second. The motioned failed at 4:30 PM.

c. Discussion continued on the Administrative/Academic Reorganization. Chair Emge suggested that since the proposal was given to the Senators on Wednesday, no official vote could be taken. The Faculty Senate will be able to access the document via the Senate’s Blackboard site and begin discussions for any editing, revisions. Many Senators feel that the document from Sen. Fridley is compelling and has merit. There are minimal changes to academic structure, minimal changes in regards to resources, and this proposal serves both faculty and students.

The Faculty Senate will meet on a historic occasion for a specially called meeting on Wednesday, April 13 to vote on the proposed document as the Faculty Senate recommendation to President Burrage for the Administrative/Academic Reorganization.

VI. New Business

Discussion of Quality Matters for online certification.

VII. Adjournment: Sen. Dixon moved the Senate adjourn. Sen. Ludrick seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Jeremy Blackwood, Faculty Senate Recorder