

Faculty Senate
Minutes
Wednesday, February 26, 2014
3:00 p.m.
Classroom Building 118
***Minutes approved by the Senate on March 12, 2014**

I. Call to order

Sen. Moretti called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Attending:

Layne Heitz	Martin Bressler
Dennis Brewster	Jennifer Hicks
Han-Sheng Chen	Alistair Maer
Kay Daigle	Christopher Moretti
Diane Dixon	Krista Ramírez
Brett Elliott	Rhonda Richards
Steven Emge	Jerry Stout
William Fridley	Blythe Duell
Hal Poovey	John Mischo

Not attending:

Daniel Althoff
Riley Coker
Tristan Eggener
George Jacox
Robert Stevens
Jacob Wallace

II. Approval of minutes from the meeting on [January 29, 2014](#)

Sen. Brewster noted a redundant phrase ‘pay’ in III. E.—the redundant phrase was removed

Sen. Maer moved to approve the Minutes as corrected above.

Sen. Brewster seconded the Motion.

The Motion to approve the Minutes passed: 14 in favor; none opposed; no abstentions.

III. Committee Reports

A. Committee on Committees: No report

B. Executive Committee: (Report by Sen. Moretti) Met on February 14th to discuss topics for the shared governance forum. The topic chosen was “adjunct issues” and ideas and suggestions for that topic were offered and discussed.

A meeting between the Executive Committee and President Minks was not possible due to scheduling difficulties.

C. Planning Committee: No meeting. Sen. Maer noted that the nomination process for the Faculty Senate Awards would be closed at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, February 28.

- D. Budget Committee:** Sen. Dixon reported that VP Ross Walkup has yet to provide the information that was requested by email concerning CUPA and AAUP data on faculty salaries for the analysis of faculty salary for budget submission in April.

There was a brief discussion amongst senators concerning whether the *Chronicle of Higher Education* published information regarding faculty salary data as it relates to rank and discipline.

- E. Personnel Policies Committee:** Sen. Poovey reported that the [PPC met on February 5](#) to discuss the Family and Medical Leave Act and policy. Sen. Moretti and Dr. Meg Cotter-Lynch attended that meeting and Dr. Cotter-Lynch shared information on her experiences related to family leave.

Senator Poovey discussed the document “[Needs and Principles](#)” on family leave that was drafted from information discussed at the PPC meeting. A question was raised on point #3 of the document. Sen. Moretti explained that it was an “off-the-cuff” calculation that was intended as a starting point for further refinement.

The PPC and the EC met with VP Clark on Friday, January 31 to continue working on the review and editing of the APPM. Review of Chapter 6 was begun. The section of Chapter 6 on course syllabi was updated. Dean Scoufos was asked for her input on the submission of syllabi and she forwarded her [recommendations](#). The PPC and EC will meet with Dr. Clark on Friday, February 28 to continue the review of Chapter 6 of the APPM.

Senator Poovey reported that members of the PPC and the EC met with Dean Scoufos and VP McMillan on Tuesday, February 18 to review the implementation of the new T & P policies and procedures. It was reported that a satisfactory resolution of [issues relating to the recommendation letters](#) in the T & P process had been resolved.

Sen. Dixon raised a question about the RUSO recommended cap on tenured faculty. Sen. Moretti indicated that he would raise the issue with VP McMillan when he emails the VP about the continuing work on developing a post-tenure review policy.

- F. University Affairs:** Sen. Stout reported that the committee did not meet, but he did receive an email from an earlier request of the other regional university universities to share some of their concerns. Namely, Southwestern reported that two of their major concerns were low faculty salaries and remediation and retention efforts for students.

Comments from senators ensued (spurred in part by the meeting between the HLC team and SE faculty—Tuesday, February 25) concerning the lack of faculty input and involvement in deliberation and decision making in university decisions. The comments also pointed to the lack of information on the university’s marketing plan, the university’s academic direction, and the university’s decision making body (the Executive Team?).

Sen. Fridley commented that these comments reflected a lack of recognition of the achievements of the Senate to improve shared governance. He also noted that the best way to achieve desired change was for senators to put their ideas in writing, submit them to the senate for deliberation and approval and then to send these recommendations to the administration. Sen. Moretti then suggested that those senators who expressed concerns

should email him by next Wednesday (March 5), and the Executive Committee would work on presenting these concerns to the administration.

IV. Old Business—none

V. New Business

A. Faculty Senate and the Southeastern Yearbook—the Yearbook staff is welcome to attend the next meeting to take photographs, but as discussed in the previous meeting, Riley Coker will develop a “copy and paste” photo composite so as to include all senators.

B. Proposal to look at reserving a weekly block of time for all committees to meet was presented by Sen. Fridley (includes rationale, motion, and considerations and suggestions—text of proposal is attached).

Motion for the proposal was made by Sen. Fridley, seconded by Sen. Daigle.

Discussion of the proposal ensued.

Amendment was proposed by Sen. Poovey to include an investigation of why faculty attendance and participation in committees was so low. Second by Sen. Elliot

Amendment was defeated 16 to 0

Amendment was unanimously approved to change the wording of the proposal (amended language in bold print):

Motion: The Planning Committee and the Committee on Committees will be charged with the tasks of (a) investigating the logistics of dedicating a niche of time (e.g. Wednesday afternoons) university-wide as a meeting time for committees and (b) **if the committees find it favorable, they will develop a plan for implementation and deliver it to the Faculty Senate by the end of the semester.** Over the summer, the Executive Committee will work on refining the plan and discuss its implementation with the administration. Work on this project will be conducted with a goal of formal implementation in the 2015-2016 academic year.

Considerations and Suggestions: **(these will be included with the motion forwarded to the aforementioned committees)**

- As a working model, perhaps begin with a time-frame of Wednesdays from 1:00 to 5:00
- “Committees” to be considered would include Faculty Senate, Faculty Senate Subcommittees, University Committees, University Councils (e.g. Academic Council, General Education Council, Teacher Education Council, Distance Education Council, and Graduate Council), Chairs Meeting, and perhaps a time for departmental meetings, departmental committees, Shared Governance Forums, and AAUP meetings.
- Ideally, times and dates will be “staggered” (e.g. every other Wednesday or the second Wednesday of each month) to ensure minimal overlap.

- Success is predicated on careful coordination with academic planning (e.g. courses and labs), so consultation with Academic Services (Tim Boatman) is essential.
- The Committee on Committees can review committees and membership to help achieve an equitable distribution of faculty committee assignments, and to identify inactive committees for possible “deletion.”
- Drs. McMillan and Clark have invited the FS to take an active role in academic planning. This project could be a significant contribution toward that end.
- **Perhaps the committees will choose to investigate why faculty attendance and participation in university committees is so low.**

The motion/proposal was approved by a vote of 15 to 1

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William Lloyd Fridley

Faculty Senate Archivist

For the Faculty Senate February 26, 2014

For New Business

Investigate the logistics of dedicating a niche of time (e.g. Wednesday afternoons) university-wide as a meeting time for committees and developing a plan for implementation of a “committee time.”

Rationale: scheduling committee meetings is a difficult process and full participation in committees has become a rarity. By dedicating a specific time for committees to meet, participation in our university’s shared governance will increase, committees will be more productive, and work can be conducted in a more efficient manner. Another anticipated result of this process is that overly-long meetings (often a result of infrequent and sporadic scheduling) will be a thing of the past.

Motion: The Planning Committee and the Committee on Committees will be charged with the tasks of (a) investigating the logistics of dedicating a niche of time (e.g. Wednesday afternoons) university-wide as a meeting time for committees and (b) developing a plan for implementation of this “committee time.” These committees, working jointly, will submit their findings and their plan to the Faculty Senate by the end of the semester. Over the summer, the Executive Committee will work on refining the plan and discuss its implementation with the administration. Work on this project will be conducted with a goal of formal implementation in the 2015-2016 academic year.

Considerations and Suggestions:

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