

Faculty Senate

Minutes*

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

3:00 p.m.

Classroom Building 118

Hyperlinks to supporting documents are included in the Minutes.

**Corrected at the Faculty Senate Meeting on December 3, 2014*

I. Call to order and Welcome

Faculty Senate Chair Moretti called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Attending:

Daniel Althoff	Steven Emge
Jeremy Blackwood	Layne Heitz
Han-Sheng Chen	Chris Moretti
Diane Dixon	Hal Poovey
Blythe Duell	Krista Ramírez
William Fridley	

Not attending:

Martin Bressler
Dennis Brewster
Kay Daigle
George Jacox
John Mischo

Guests:

Tim Boatmun
Kristie Luke

II. Discussion about unifying withdrawal dates – Associate Deans Tim Boatmun and Kristie Luke

Deans Boatmun and Luke spoke to inform the Faculty Senate of a proposed change to unify student course withdrawal dates. Dean Boatmun indicated that from Fall 2010 to Spring 2014, there were only 26 “F” grades issued as a result of the “W_” option for instructors, out of more than 16,000 grades submitted during that period. Due to the low incidence of “W_” grades, the Deans are proposing that a single date for Automatic Withdrawals be instituted. The unified date would occur once 75% of the course has elapsed; the 75% elapsed course time meets Regents’ requirements. The unified withdrawal date would be at the end of 12 weeks for 16-week classes; at 6 weeks for 8 week-classes; and 3 weeks for 4-week classes. The effect would be to lengthen the Automatic W date by one week, and to eliminate the instructor’s “W_” grading option.

Discussion relating to implementation of the proposed policy then followed. Faculty Senators were curious to know if notices of withdrawal could be generated for instructors (answer: Yes, but a new program would have to be put in place); whether a “Permission to Withdraw” notation could be added to a class for those instructors wishing it (answer: Yes). It was noted by the Deans that students would still not be able to withdraw automatically from all classes, effectively withdrawing from the university.

Sen. Dixon moved that the Faculty Senate endorse the proposal to unify existing Withdrawal dates to the 75%-completion mark, and that a copy of the endorsement be sent to Academic Council and to Vice President for Academic Affairs Doug McMillan.

Sen. Duell seconded the Motion.

The Motion was approved unanimously (11 in favor).

Sen. Dixon suggested that the proposal be forwarded to the appropriate committee to suggest details.

III. Approval of the minutes from the meeting on November 5th

Faculty Senate Recorder, **Sen. Althoff**, noted one typographical error. There were no other corrections.

Sen. Heitz moved that the Minutes as corrected be approved.

Sen. Dixon seconded the motion.

The Motion was approved unanimously (11 in favor).

IV. Committee Reports

A. Personnel Policies

Sen. Poovey, chair of the Personnel Policies Committee, submitted a [Report](#) on the Committee's meeting held on November 12. He announced that the PPC will have its next meeting in January. **Sen. Poovey** also submitted a [draft of survey questions](#) intended to determine how annual faculty evaluations are carried out across the campus. He invites Faculty Senators to make suggests for changes soon, as he hopes to send the survey to campus faculty via Survey Monkey next week. An initial test of the Survey Monkey instrument will be distributed to Faculty Senators before the final version goes live and is sent to the faculty at large.

Sen. Fridley reported that the "travel card group" had just met with VP Ross Walkup and Kay Lynn Roberts. They will resume meeting after the semester break to discussing using Pro Card for travel purposes. He also reported that All Seasons Travel is the official travel vendor for the university, and that travel arrangements are made more expeditiously and efficiently through them, especially in terms of making reservations and having payment made directly to them.

B. Committee on Committees

Sen. Dixon reported that the Committee on Committees has not met since the last Faculty Senate meeting, but that they have received a list of all full time faculty members. The Committee will examine the list to determine the distribution of Faculty Senate Committee appointments among the faculty next semester.

C. Budget Committee

The Budget Committee submitted a [Report](#) on its meeting held on November 12. The Report is **corrected at the Faculty Senate meeting to indicate that it adjourned at 4:00 p.m.**

The Committee is still waiting to hear from Vice President Walkup. **Sen. Emge** announced that VP Walkup will meet next semester with the Faculty Senate.

D. University Affairs Committee

Sen. Duell reported the last Scholarly Brown Bag Lunch with panel discussion had a record attendance of 17 people.

E. Executive Committee

Senate Special Election Results

Last week's forum on Shared Governance

FS Chair Moretti announced the results of the Faculty Senate Special Election. Brad Ludrick was elected to the remaining two and a half-year term in one seat for A&S; Randy Clark was elected to the half-year term of the other A&S seat. Tom Harvey was the sole candidate for EBS and was elected to the vacant seat in that school.

Because the election results were narrowly determined, **FS Chair Moretti** said we should consider a change in election method to avoid the need for runoffs.

The attendance at the Shared Governance Forum was low. Notes on the Forum were taken by **Sen. Fridley**. The central topic at the Forum was the university budget and mandatory costs. Topics included the impact on local revenue from a predicted 7% increase in tuition; fundraising; the legislative “atmosphere” surrounding appropriations for education (better for common education than for higher education); a desire to hire an individual in a dedicated marketing position; and the hiring of an international student coordinator. The updated approach to professional staffing focuses on what the position can potentially contribute to the financial improvement of the university, rather than focusing on what the position will “cost” the university.

In a side comment in response to discussion on sending Faculty Senate documents by email, **FS Chair Moretti** said that he emails documents as they are received, and that he tries to send documents for the next meeting before noon on the preceding Monday.

F. Planning Committee

Sen. Coker submitted a [Report](#) from the Planning Committee. The Report details the members of this year's committee, and contains recommendations that are presented as three Motions to the Faculty Senate: (1) that points for receiving nominations be eliminated; (2) that there be a drop-down menu to allow voting for first and second choice, and that second-choice votes be “promoted” once the Professor of the Year has been selected; and (3) that there be established a single “Adjunct of the Year” Faculty Senate Award.

Sen. Coker moved that all three items above be approved.

Sen. Poovey seconded the motion.

The Motion was approved unanimously (11 in favor).

V. New Business

Senate-sponsored lunches during finals week

FS Chair Moretti announced that he will bring a sign-up sheet at the next Senate meeting for Senators who volunteer to bring food for lunch on Monday, December 8, and Wednesday, December 10. (There is a university-wide faculty lunch to be held on Tuesday, December 9.) The faculty lunches on December 8 and 10 will be in the Faculty Lounge.

VI. Old Business

There was no old business to attend to.

VII. Adjournment

FS Chair Moretti moved that Faculty Senate adjourn.

Sen. Coker seconded the Motion.

There was unanimous approval.

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Althoff

Recorder