

Faculty Senate (FS) Minutes
Spring Semester, Meeting #4
Wednesday, March 11, 2020
Room 100, Russell Building, 3:00-4:30 p.m.
As approved at the April 8 virtual meeting of the Faculty Senate

Attending:

Stan Alluisi	Rolando Diaz	Chris Moretti
Daniel Althoff	Diane Dixon	Chaehyun Lee
Laura Atchley	Carolyn Fridley	Josh Nannestad
Kathy Boothe	William Fridley	Rhonda Richards
Derek Cash	Kendra Ingram	Kate Shannon
Randy Clark	Elisabeth Ponce-Garcia	Michael Scheuerman
Kay Daigle	Karen Maple	Alicia Wallace

Not Attending:

Laura Atchley	Rhonda Richards	Alicia Wallace
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Guests:

Bryon Clark
Teresa Golden
Karl Frinkle

I. Call to Order

- A. 2:59 pm Senator Randy Clark (Chair)

II. Approval of the Minutes

- A. [Minutes from February 26, 2020](#)
1. Motion to approve minutes – Senator Alluisi
 2. Second – Senator Daigle
 3. No Comments and/or Corrections
 4. Yes 14 ; No 0 ; Abstaining 1
 5. Motion carries - Minutes approved

III. Thanks from Chair Clark

- A. Chair Clark thanked Senator Daigle for chairing the 26 February, 2020 Faculty Senate meeting.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Budget Committee

1. No report. Did not meet.

B. Committee on Committees (CoC)

1. Did not meet. Chair Althoff reported that he had updated the membership on the various Faculty Senate committees and thanked Senator William Fridley for his diligent work maintaining the committee membership lists.

V. Special Guests Report on Corona Virus Planning

A. At 3:03 pm Interim-President, Dr. Bryon Clark and VPAA, Dr. Teresa Golden arrived and addressed the Faculty Senate regarding the current status of the university with regard to the Covid-19 outbreak. Dr. Clark entertained questions from the senators.

1. Senator Nannestad asked who decided if and when the university will close? Dr. Clark replied that the decision could be made at any level from the president through the Chancellor or Governor. Dr. Clark also discussed the local planning document developed ten years ago for dealing with such events. Dr. Golden noted that a Corona Virus Task Force had been formed and had been meeting.

2. Dr. Ponce-Garcia asked if there would be increased level of cleaning on campus? Dr. Clark indicated that there was nothing special being done for Covid-19 but that the university regularly increases cleaning activities during flu season. Dr. Golden added that anyone can request extra cleaning in their area if needed.

3. Senator Moretti asked about the potential economic impact of the virus on the university budget? Dr. Clark noted that the state budget has already allocated \$7 million less for higher education due to reductions in the gross production tax (GPT). He is expecting even lower revenues from the GPT should world oil prices remain low. Though that will likely impact next year's budget.

4. Senator Althoff asked if the decision to close the university occurs during spring break when will the faculty and staff be notified? Dr. Clark explained that he had already completed two interviews with local TV stations regarding potential closings. He suggested staying tuned to local TV and the university web site for news. Dr. Clark also requested that faculty self-report their travel so that the administration can track their travel. He emphasized that this request was not to snoop on faculty but to help manage risk. He also noted that there are currently no restrictions on travel.

5. Dr. Clark urged all faculty to take all personal and professional items they will need to teach from home should the campus be closed. Once closed there will be limited access to the campus.

6. Dr. Clark noted that the World Health Organization (WHO) had just declared the Covid-19 outbreak a pandemic.

7. Someone asked who was on the Task Force and Dr. Golden listed several names.

At 3:24 pm the formal portion of the Faculty Senate meeting resumed.

VI. Committee Reports - Continued

C. Executive Committee (EC) ([Report submitted](#))

1. Dr. Randy Clark stated that the topic of the next faculty Forum would be sabbaticals with a panel discussion moderated by Dr. Dan Althoff.

2. Dr. Randy Clark noted that he is a member of the Corona Virus Task Force and, since he lives in Texas, he would like a volunteer to act as his alternate should the task Force meet and he be unavailable in a timely manner. Senator Rolando Diaz volunteered.

3. Chair Clark called for a vote on the formal request to initiate a cooperative review of the workings of the PTR process (see [Report](#) for 9 March, 2020 letter from Dr. Randy Clark to VPAA Golden):

- a. Motion to approve the Formal Request – Senator Randy Clark
- b. Second – Senator William Fridley
- c. Discussion – Should other dates be used and 2020 data be included?
- d. Yes 14 ; No 0 ; Abstaining 1
- e. Motion carries – Action Item approved

4. It was announced that Alisha Ridenour, President of the Southeastern Staff Association, has stated that the Staff Association will begin surveying staff members in a fashion similar to the faculty Senate’s faculty survey, in order to become more proactive in shared governance.

D. Personnel Policies Committee

1. Did not meet.

E. Planning Committee

1. Chair Dixon stated that the committee did not meet but planned to meet after Spring Break. She asked the senate how to deal with the Librarians voting for the Faculty Senate Awards? What school do Librarians vote in? The consensus was to have Librarians vote in the group with the fewest nominees. Chair Clark suggested that the Planning Committee needed to meet to decide this issue.

F. University Affairs Committee

1. Did not meet.

V. Old Business

- A. None.

VI. New Business

- A. None.

VII. Announcements

- A. Chair Clark reminded the Senate that from 3:00-4:00 p.m. on March 27, in Russell 100 – Senator Carolyn Fridley will give a talk titled: "The AAUP & the Role of Women in the Professoriate: The Early Years" to help celebrate the centennial of the 19th Amendment. The event is free and open to the public if the campus is open.

VIII. Adjournment

- A. Motion to adjourn – Senator Ponce-Garcia
- B. Second Senator Nannestad
- C. Yes – all; No – 0; Abstentions - 0
- D. Motion carries
- E. Motion ends at ~3:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Senator Alluisi
