

**Faculty Senate (FS) Minutes
Spring Semester, Meeting #1
Wednesday, January 26, 2022
Virtual Meeting, 3:00-4:30 p.m.**

As approved by the Faculty Senate on February 9, 2022

Attending:

Laura Atchley
Stan Alluisi
Kathy Boothe
Randy Clark
Steve Csaki

William Fridley
Amy Gantt
Srimal Garusinghe
Ashley Hampton
Andy Kramer

Chaehyun Lee
Kate Shannon
Rob Shauger
Matthew Sparacio

Absences:

Cody Bogard
Rolando Diaz
Jeri Walker

Doug Wood
Mila Zhu

Guests:

Aaron Adair
Courtney Boise
Mike Davis

Karl Frinkle
Dena Rymel
Joseph Simons-Rudolph

I. Call to Order – 3:02 PM CST

II. Minutes from November 17, 2021

A. **Motion to Approve** the [Minutes from November 17, 2021](#) – Past Chair Clark.

B. Second – Senator Atchley

C. Discussion

1. Chair Daigle noted that in the spring meeting dates, March 30 is left off and it needs to be included. When asked, the Parliamentarian indicated that if the minutes are approved with this correction, the new meeting date list will also be accepted; Parliamentarian approved this action.
2. Senator Fridley noted that there are two meeting dates with the President and Executive committee on March 28. These will be updated with the appropriate times added.

D. Vote to approve: Yes - 14; No - 0; passes unanimously.

III. Committee Reports

A. Budget Committee

1. Did not meet; nothing to report.

B. Committee on Committees

1. Did not meet; nothing to report.

C. Personnel Policies Committee

1. Did not meet; nothing to report. Has a meeting scheduled for next week.

D. Planning Committee

1. Senator Boothe had some updates regarding the Faculty Senate Awards: thus far 624 responses have already been submitted. This is a substantial increase from the previous two years when total nominations hovered below 500. Nominations are due on February 7 at 5 pm. The Planning Committee will meet after that deadline.

- a) A question was posed regarding the planning of a Faculty Awards ceremony – there has not been one in three years due to COVID. Is there a particular timeline that we need to be on to plan for this year? Senator Fridley noted that historically VPSA Liz McCraw and Student Affairs handled these plans. Since it is the “faculty and staff” ceremony, Fridley suggested we contact VPAA Golden on this.

- b) Chair Daigle and Senator Boothe will look into this possibility.

E. University Affairs Committee

1. Did not meet; nothing to report. As a reminder, Senator Wood is now the chair of this committee.

F. Treasurer Report

1. Nothing to Report

G. Executive Committee

1. Did not meet; nothing to report. Has a meeting scheduled for next Monday at 2 PM. Chair Daigle believes that the committee will bring several business items to discuss at the next full senate meeting on February 9.
2. As a reminder, the FS is responsible for the second Shared Governance Forum this spring. This forum will be on the topic of our choosing and occur on April 12.

IV. Old Business

- A. Senator Shannon asked about any updates regarding faculty and staff standing in the budget process and the salary card. The topic should be revisited with President Newsom. He [President Newsom] told us he would be in contact over the summer to engage faculty in the budget process and we have not heard anything yet.
1. Chair Daigle explained that the Salary Card Working Group will meet February 4.
 - a) Senator Fridley asked Chair Daigle to fill us in on how the Salary Card Working Group is going? Chair Daigle said the plan for next meeting is to discuss and finalize a conceptual model for establishing salaries. Working Group members have already provided some suggestions. Senator Fridley requested that any proposal or recommendation from this working group *must* include a *cost of living adjustment*. Chair Daigle replied that the working group has prioritized this and will be including it in the group's proposal, which will be presented to President Newsom. After the conceptual model is agreed the number crunching will begin.
 2. Chair Daigle also noted that she has not received any new information regarding the budget process. There were conversations regarding granting or freeing up relocation funds to help recruit faculty. Senator Alluisi spoke to Mark Webb, who said any relocation funds would need approval from the Foundation Board but also stated he did not believe there would be opposition to this. Senator Alluisi also noted that VPAA Golden is working to systematize this process.
 3. Regarding Faculty and Staff involvement in the budget process, Senator Cotter-Lynch suggested the Budget Committee request a meeting with VPBA Dennis Westman, President Newsom, and the FS Budget Committee in February. Ideally, this meeting will be scheduled annually. Senator Sparacio suggested inviting one or two representatives from Staff Senate as well. Chair Daigle transferred this as a charge to the Budget Committee: schedule a meeting with the VPBA, University President, the FS Budget Committee, and representatives from Staff Senate.

V. New Business

A. Faculty Senate Survey Revision

1. Chair Daigle asked for volunteers to form an ad hoc committee to look at the Faculty Senate Survey to revise the document and decrease the number of questions. Senators Walker (via email), Kramer, Sparacio, and Shannon volunteered to serve on this ad

hoc committee. Senator Sparacio will call a meeting within the next week. Any senator who wishes to join should email Senator Sparacio.

2. Senator Sparacio relayed information from a previous AAUP meeting about the current state of SE staff. He indicated that they are really stretched thin. The word *emergency* has been thrown around to describe our current circumstance. The pay is not high enough, even though President Newsom assured that steps would be taken to address this. We lose people due to low salary, COVID, and overall burnout. Too many staff members are being tasked with doing additional jobs because there is literally no one else available. AAUP President Frinkle offered that the AAUP is working on getting a list of all the current vacant positions across departments on campus. He also suggested that a meeting with the President and other administrators to address this issue and to prioritize pay increases for certain positions to help ensure we have a robust lineup on campus.
 - a) Chair Daigle supports setting up a meeting, and declares the FS is happy to serve with AAUP to try to address this crisis.

VI. Announcements

- A. Senator Shannon gave an update regarding the LMS Transition Committee, which is currently working to narrow down the options. The committee has a plan in place, that over the next 6 weeks, will provide faculty more opportunities to engage in conversations and collect feedback about potential LMS choices. As part of this plan, the LMS transition proposal needs to be submitted by April. The Committee is planning an open DEC meeting associated with drop-in training on February 18 for faculty to learn more directly about these systems from the vendors. On that day faculty will be able to immerse themselves in the final LMS options to give feedback. The committee has already cut the list to three potential options: D2L, Blackboard Ultra, and CANVAS. By February 18, that list will be cut to two. Senator Shannon explained that all the vendors have an implementation plan included in their package – they will provide training and advanced support during this transition process.
 1. Aaron Adair, a member of the LMS Transition Committee, offered praise for Senator Shannon, Karl Frinkle, and CIDT Director Christala Smith for their work in putting everything together and leaving no stone unturned - “they are doing amazing work”!

2. Senator Shannon addressed concerns about the transition process: change is going to be necessary, regardless of the LMS that is selected. She explained that our current self-serviced Blackboard platform is *multiple* generations behind, so even if we stay with Blackboard, there will be a significant amount of change and a learning curve.
 3. The LMS transition will be a phased implementation. Only select courses/programs will move to the new platform in Spring 2023. The first group of courses will be those of the DEC as this group will be most familiar with the new LMS. The graduate classes will be the next group to be migrated to the new LMS for the Summer 2023 terms, with the remaining undergraduate classes will be moving to the new LMS in Fall 2023.
- B. Senator Shannon invited all who are interested to the next Mutual Mentoring Group meeting this Friday (January 28). The topic of this meeting is “teaching.” VPAA Golden will be in attendance to field concerns about COVID. You do not have to attend in person, anyone may attend via Zoom. All this information is available in the Blackboard course. If you are interested in joining the Blackboard group email Kate Shannon to be added.
- VII. Adjournment – 3:41 PM CST
- A. **Motion to Adjourn** – Past Chair Clark
 - B. Second - Senator Alluisi

Minutes taken by of Senator Matthew Sparacio, Recorder.