

Minutes for Faculty Senate
Wednesday, January 17, 2024
Meeting 1, Spring 2024
3:00-4:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Kate Shannon
Chris Moretti
Sarah Morrison
Kyle C. Lincoln
Sondra Petty
Ami Towne (Staff Senate)
Mila Zhu
Andy Kramer
Gamage Garusinghe
Amy Gantt
Ian Gerg
Frank Xu
Jeni Maple
B. Steve Csaki
F. Randy Clark
Meg Cotter-Lynch
Aaron Adair
Jayanna Greenwood
Laura Atchley
Amy Mills
Carol Sullivan
Dena Rymel

- I. Call to Order
KS called the Senate to Order at 15:00.
- II. Minutes from November 29, 2023
AK moves to approve; BC seconds.
Only a small spelling error was corrected.
Approved unanimously.
- III. Treasurer's Report
No news from the Holiday Break, and no formal Treasurer's Report.
KS asked for an update about what the progress about the Senate's budget updates from the Business Office. BC reports that he has a plan in motion about

the rectification of the Budget disconnect; KS invited by BC to collaborate; KS and BC agree to collaborate. Ami Towne (Staff Senate) notes that they are working on a similar project for Staff Senate and volunteered some helpful information about their process; thanks were given to Ami Towne. KS and BC note that they will work with the Budget Committee.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Budget Committee

Forgot that there was a BC/PPC meeting with a joint purpose for salary things. BUDCOM reports that the joint committee (CARDCOM) is still committed to working for greater revision of the Salary Card. The CARDCOM has asked for a meeting with Pres. Newsom and VP Westman to work out the plan, its orientation, and its creation. MCL, *pro suis*, made that request as the co-chair of the CARDCOM.

B. Committee on Committees

FC reports that no formal report is issued, but he does have an updated list of chairs of the relevant university committees, in order to facilitate the filling of vacancies in the Spring. These will be forthcoming.

C. Executive Committee

No formal meeting, because of illnesses.

EXCOM has a meeting, 23 January, with Pres. Newsom and VP Golden scheduled. The Shared Governance Fora in this semester is currently penciled in to discuss the “reverse bell curve” problem of faculty retention and its impact on leadership positions among the faculty. CM notes that his data (a comparison of 2024 and 2014 faculty terms of service) indicates a sharp decline in the number of mid-career faculty.

D. Personnel Policies Committee

MCL notes that the CARDCOM does have its meeting scheduled with Pres. Newsom and VP Westman for 15 February 13:00-14:00.

E. Planning Committee

PLANCOM has not yet met this semester. MZ notes that nominations for Faculty Senate awards are going well, with already 129 nominations. Already, these are filling up nicely. The deadline for the awards still has about 3 weeks, but these are open.

F. University Affairs Committee

UACOM has no formal meeting. There are still some pieces still to be sorted out after which there will be a meeting. KS notes that there are discussions about changing the summer calendar. Ami Towne notes that Staff Senate has submitted a proposal for a 4.5 day work week for summer hours. KS asks if the Staff Senate is going to submit that material to other constituent assemblies on campus—Faculty

Senate and Student Government—for their input. Ami Towne notes that this may come up in further shared governance meetings, and that this may come up in other meetings.

V. Old Business

A. HLC Visit

Pres. Newsom commented that he received the initial information from the HLC visit that should prefigure a positive report. KS notes that she had expected to hear from the HLC before the Holiday, but that this was still an outstanding issue.

VI. New Business

A. F! – denotes Academic Dishonesty. Is this something we can/should pursue at SE? (Senator Alluisi)

SA was absent, but KS offers a brief review of the previous instances where this was addressed. Because it deals with academic dishonesty and AI's proliferation has created a cause for concern, this may be an issue to address. IG asks whether there are due process questions about how that can be resolved, how allegations of dishonesty should be addressed as a key question for liability. There was general conversation about how such a grade would figure into GPA, Financial Aid, and the resolution/overwriting of that grade over time. SP asks if the CIDT's tools for detecting AI cannot provide proof that is sufficient for AI content, then why have the tools? AK notes that syllabus statements can provide some sense of the parameters for policy. SP notes that she had a policy statement, but this was not sufficient for proving failure within the contemporary conflicts posed by AI content. SP asks for a specific rule or policy that we should include. MCL provides anecdotal evidence for the challenge between AI-for-revision and AI-for-composition, which imposes a limits test on the ways that academic dishonesty can be detected and remediated. KS asks if meeting with VP McGraw might help clarify Maxient's role in the AI/Dishonesty reporting for academic dishonesty; in a similar fashion, does Mike Davis needs to weigh in for the legal liability issues. IG notes that because there isn't a formal due process, there becomes a real issue for the legal challenges therein. IG notes that the mutability of truth claims also make for a need for some kind of challenging/adversarial process, which might expose the institution to greater legal liability. SP expresses existential ennui about the AI question, and whether she has the ability to enforce her best moral instincts about academic honesty as a faculty member. MCL notes that a faculty member can just fail them. FC expresses enthusiasm for this prerogative. MCL and SP discuss the particulars of the situations. CM asks if students can get an AI checker/Turnitin is enabled for student preview, and that SP should include a threshold for students to be covered for cheating. CM also suggests that Maxient is the last step in a revision and material evidence gathering process.

KL notes that a task force is better than a vacuous discussion, and that this might present a white paper that provides assurances that academic integrity is taken seriously.

KS notes that she, *de jure officii*, is, therefore, empaneling an *ad hoc* committee to discuss this issue and its implications. She asks for senators to self-nominate for the population of the committee.

FC asks for clarification of the extant policy about plagiarism and cheating, and notes that since that policy is on the books, he therefore suggests that the policy may require clarification and amendment. FC asks if the policy cannot be implemented with a preponderance of evidence, which IG notes is the key element. IG argues that how we collect and what evidence counts is the key question not the policy itself, which is his clarification of FC's question.

DICUSSION TABLED.

B. Advising Concerns (Chair Elect Petty)

SP asks why students are not transferring to majors for their advising after they attain Junior and Senior status. She also asks about the channeling of students to classes for which they do not qualify. KS suggests that perhaps the mythical CIVITAS system may help resolve this, *si usurum fore*. JM notes that the mythical CIVITAS is in progress, but that VP Shields may have more information. KS asks whether prudent stewardship of resources and the best use of faculty time will be accomplished with an implementation. MCL notes that the holding pattern of "wait until you see CIVITAS" is insufficient for the current problems with handover. LA notes that not having not enough faculty to advise students in a major is also a challenge. She suggests that this may cause further bottlenecks. KS notes that she will ask VP Shields for a progress update.

C. McCurtain County Campus (K. Gross)

KS notes that McCurtain County Campus does not have a formal representation and the specific concerns for that campus. KS requests the consent of the senate to invite Karen Gross from the MC Campus to share the information.

KS will invite Karen Gross to contribute feedback about the MC Campus and we will study this issue for a future discussion about reforming the membership of the Senate to include branch campuses.

XII. Announcements

MMG meets to talk about OER, Research, and Library Resources on 25 January, 15:30 in Science 333.

Study Abroad programs have open slots available for SE students, with deadlines for Summer in late February and for Fall in March.

XIII. Adjournment

FC moves to adjourn; LA seconds. *Acclamatio adest*, adjourned at 16:16.