

Faculty Senate Meeting—April 5, 2016

Senators Present: Bart Ballard, April Conkey, Kathleen Rees, Manuel Flores, Armando Ibanez, Christine Fiestas, Barbara Cooke, Pamela Wright, Khairul Islam, Elizabeth Janzen, Joachim Reinhuber, Richard Miller, Monica Wong Ratcliff, Kendra Huff, Ruth Chatelain-Jardon, Chonwei Xiao, Nuri Yilmazer, Rajab Chaloo, David Ramirez, Polly Allred, Patricia Huskin, Nestor Sherman, Lifford McLauchlan, Amit Verma, Christopher Hearon, Don Jones, Melody Knight, Bruce Marsh, Maria de Jesus Ayala-Schueneman

Senators Absent: Alberto Rodriguez (3), Ryan Paul (3), Chang Sung (1), Xiaoliu Chi (1), Stan Hodges (5), Daniel Burt (1), Joseph Sai (1), Jody Briones (1), Valerie Bartelt (3), Hong Zhou (3)

Attending: Abigail De La Mora

❖ **Call to Order and Quorum Call - 3:32 p.m.:**

- *Dr. Verma asked parliamentarian, Dr. Nestor Sherman, if there are enough members for a quorum. Dr. Sherman replied in the affirmative.*

❖ **Approval of Minutes from November Senate Meeting:**

- *Dr. Verma asked for approval of the previous meeting minutes.*
 - A move to approve the minutes as stands was made. It was noted that Dr. Ryan Paul is listed on both “Senators Present” and “Senators Absent”. As he is listed as speaking in the minutes, it was requested that his name be removed under the “Senators Absent” section. The motion to approve the amended minutes was made by Dr. Melody Knight. The motion was seconded.
 - The motion passed unanimously.

❖ **Presentation from Provost:**

- *Dr. Heidi Anderson was unable to attend the meeting due to the College of Arts and Sciences Deans Forum that was held at the same time.*
 - Dr. Verma informed the Senate of Dr. Anderson’s absence and stated that he requested Dr. Duane Gardiner to attend in Dr. Anderson’s absence to which she stated that Dr. Gardiner would also be attending the Dean’s Forum as well. Dr. Verma stated that he wished to express his strong opinion that he felt that this was not right as the Faculty Senate meetings are schedule in advance and the forums should have been rescheduled. He stated that shared governance should not be in just words but rather in practice.

❖ **Report from Committees and Officers:**

- *Dr. Verma asked for the various committees and officers to give updates to the Faculty Senate.*
 - Faculty Senate President Update - Dr. Verma
 - Dr. Verma reminded the Senate that this would be his last meeting as President and that he leave a bit disappointed in himself due to unfinished

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- election business. He apologized to the incoming President (Dr. Rajab Chaloo).
- Dr. Verma stated that reviewing of dean every four years should have input from the faculty regarding their annual evaluations.
 - The issue of an ombudsperson has been brought to Dr. Tallant and Dr. Anderson. It was stated that Dr. Gardiner agrees with the idea and Dr. Verma hopes that this can be carried forward. He also hopes that the issue regarding faculty load will be pressed on the Provost. It was stated that the issue was brought up in the most recent Council of Chairs meeting. It was stated that this was not the appropriate forum and that the Provost should have approached the Faculty Senate first. It was stated in the Constitution that the Senate has say regarding faculty issues.
 - ❖ *Dr. Richard Miller attended the Council of Chairs meeting and stated that three topics were discussed regarding the compensation for Department Chairs, assistance for Department Chairs, and the creation of a business manager for colleges. It was stated that chairs were to create a taskforce to address the workload issue. It was stated that the taskforce is not officially made. It was also stated that the preferred taskforce would be Senate led by the chairs. It was agreed that Senators would need to be on this committee.*
 - ❖ *Dr. Polly Allred stated if it would be appropriate to include office hours issued as this was a discussed before in Senate and the Music department had looked into due to their different teaching load. Dr. Elizabeth Janzen stated that her department chair had looked at other university of our size both in and out of the system and no other has the 10 posted hours. It was stated that this issue was discussed in Executive Committee. It was suggested that there be an amendment to the handbook and folding that issue in with the workload which it was felt that it made sense to do so.*
 - ❖ *Dr. Manuel Flores stated that if a workload study is to be conducted to have the Senate take lead. Chairs are a very good option but the Senate is independent and it should be this body to investigate. It was stated that the norm for the Senate is to side step the Constitution. Dr. Kathleen Rees stated that the Faculty Handbook states the office hours and there are procedures to make those changes. Dr. Joachim Reinhuber stated that the issue regarding work load and office hours should be separate there are different office hours and not just about research.*
 - ❖ *It was stated that the load is important as a faculty member had promotion denied because research was not seen as important as teaching and more of a hobby. The decision was overturned.*
 - The other issue Dr. Verma mentioned was the election process. In the past, there was poorly maintained list of Senators and their terms. Dr. Verma thanked Dr. Polly Allred and Abigail De La Mora in helping to maintain an up to date list of senators and terms. Also the issue of elections not taking place on time from department has caused missing

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senators. Dr. Verma expressed his apologize to Dr. Chaloo and mentioned the idea of electing officers in May due to the absence of many senators. Dr. Rees stated that the Constitution states these elections take place in April meeting. It was stated that the College of Business Administration and the Library currently have no representation. It was stated that there are 12 vacant seats currently in the Senate. This issue would be left to Dr. Chaloo as incoming President in New Business.

❖ *Dr. Janzen asked to backtrack and discuss the workload. She asked if this topic is being passed on. Chairs have been charged by the Provost in this matter and the concern stated was that if the Senate stated it was out of order would it delay the process. Discussion regarding a joint taskforce was made. It was stated that there are chairs that are also senators can make sure it goes to the Senate. It was asked how can a resolution be taken to the taskforce and would it need to go to the Provost or the President. It was stated that a motion can be made at any time but a cautionary note was made that a resolution would need to be voted on twice. Discussion continued regarding whether a motion would be made on this issue. It was stated that the Senate would see what happens before summer and deal with it in September. Dr. Verma stated that this was going into new business talk and brought the Senate back on track.*

▪ SRI Implementation Committee – Dr. Elizabeth Janzen:

- Dr. Janzen gave an update on the committee. The committee with Miao Zhuang in OIR to produce the test SRI along with the current SRI. It is too late for this term. As some classes have an eight week survey. The earliest would be Fall 2016. Courses with multi-section would be used. The courses would be offered the new SRI to one section. Legal has already cleared the test. A note will be attached saying this SRI will not be used for evaluation or promotion. The committee is currently looking to determine the ideal size. OIR pilot test has a sample size of 18% but felt that they would not need this size rather 10%. The timeline is June would get a list of courses. June/July the committee would agree on which courses and OIR would work on a template. Early August, chairs and deans would be informed and diffuse any issues. In September, the committee would have a final short list submitted to OIR. In October, the SRI would be made available. The committee has not decided as of yet what do with the data once they have it.

▪ Election Committee – Dr. Lifford McLauchlan:

- Dr. McLauchlan stated that there are 8 elections needed and three are currently done but not counted in time and one vacant seat for incoming Senate President. A list of departments and college at-large elections were stated. Two senators were removed recently so their department would need to do new elections. College of Arts and Sciences At-Large had to be redone as an individual who was eligible and wanting to serve was missing from the ballot. The Dean's Office is expected to send out ballots soon.

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❖ *Dr. Rees asked that the current committee ends today would the new committee take over the election process. It was stated that the election committee will complete the task.*

- Faculty Lecture Committee – Dr. Joachim Reinhuber:
 - Dr. Reinhuber invited Senators to the upcoming Faculty Lecture presentation. It was asked who the previous chair was which Dr. Michelle Garcia was. Dr. Reinhuber would be contacting her regarding this committee.
- Annual Evaluation Committee:
 - It was stated a Doodle poll would be sent out for this committee for meeting times.
 - It was stated that during Executive Committee that the Emeriti Rule #3 was not gone.
- Title IX Committee:
 - Nothing to report from this committee.

❖ **Old Business:**

➤ *Dr. Verma opened the floor for old business.*

- Dr. Verma discussed the amendment to the promotion guidelines. He stated that the previous resolution was too wordy and the President vetoed the resolution and sent it back to the committee to rework. A simpler version was passed out. A request for vote was made since this was coming from committee. The resolution was passed unanimously.
- Dr. Verma stated in the last meeting that a committee was to be formed to look at and give input regarding the Constitution. It was stated that the term By-Laws and Constitution can be merged as they both serve the same purpose. Dr. Verma requested nomination of 5 members for this committee. Dr. Bart Ballard and Dr. Richard Miller were mentioned. It was asked if this would be given to the By-Laws committee that has already been formed. Dr. Patricia Huskin and Dr. David Ramirez were also mentioned. Dr. Nestor Sherman stated that a lot of time was put in the development of the current Constitution and the Senate cannot ignore that.
- Dr. Verma said goodbye to the Senate and received a plaque for his services. Dr. Chaloo thanked Dr. Verma and those Senators whose term expired for their service. He stated that as President he would make sure that the Senate's voice be heard loud and clear. He stated he would work to the best of his ability to make sure the Senate represents the faculty of the entire university.
- Senators with terms expired and Dr. Verma left.

❖ **New Business:**

➤ *Dr. Chaloo opened the floor for new business items and welcomed the new Senate.*

- Dr. Chaloo reminded the Senate that there are currently 12 vacancies and the College of Business currently has no representation at this time as well as the Library. As a result, Dr. Chaloo stated as per the recommendations of the election

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committee and the past Senate President and in order to be fair and transparent to all Senators including the newly elected Senators, he can act on behalf of the Senate for the month while the remainder 12 elections take place. He stated that without senators missing and two units not being represented, it would be unfair for election of officers to take place. Discussion took place as opinions were voiced regarding the issues with elections. Dr. Chaloo stated our Constitution states that Department elections are done in early February, College elections done in early March and officer/committee elections are done in the April meeting and unfortunately this has not happened. A suggestion was made regarding the formation of a one month interim committee of officers. It was asked if the nomination committee has a list of nominees to which Dr. Chaloo replied no because we do not have a current complete roster of senators. Dr. Kathleen Rees requested that it be on record that she does not support to postpone the election and left the meeting.

- A motion was made to elect interim officers in order to meet a compromise for the given situation by Dr. Richard Miller. The motion was second by Dr. Joachim Reinhuber. The motion passed unanimously.
 - The Interim Officers are as follows:
 - *Vice President – Dr. Richard Miller*
 - *Secretary – Dr. Melody Knight*
 - *Parliamentarian – Dr. Christopher Hearon*

❖ **Adjournment:**

- *Dr. Chaloo announced the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 3, 2016.*
- With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.