

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – February 6, 2018

Senators Present: Polly Allred, Ambrose Anoruo, María Ayala-Schueneman, Santa Barraza, Marion Blake, Jieming Chen, Christine Fiestas, Ann Fronckowiak, Kristopher Garza, Jeffrey Glick, Christopher Hearon, Brent Hedquist, Elizabeth Janzen, Joseph Jones, Dongnyoung Kim, Lana McDonnell, Brian Menaker, Craig A. Meyer, Richard Miller, Patrick Mills, Tim Oblad, Joseph Sai, Ari Sherris, Jack Shorter, Tushar Sinha, Marsha Sowell, Amit Verma, Randall Williams, Hong Zhou

Senators Absent: Natasha Bell, Rudolf Bohm, Horacio Duarte, Karen Furgerson, Kai Jin, Larry Knight, Barbara Oates, Patricia Polastri, Elda E. Sanchez, Pamela Wright, Subbarao Yelisetti, Nuri Yilmazer

Attending: Dr. Allen Rasmussen, Interim Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs (scheduled but could not attend); Mr. Raajkumar Kurapati, Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer

I. Call to Order and Quorum Call.

At 3:32 p.m. President Miller asked the parliamentarian, Polly Allred, if enough members were present for a quorum. Senator Allred replied in the affirmative.

II. Approval of Minutes from November and December 2017 Faculty Senate Meeting.

President Miller asked for approval of the previous two meeting's minutes. Minutes for both meetings were approved.

III. Presentations.

A. Presentation from Dr. Allen Rasmussen, Provost

- Dr. Rasmussen was not able to attend the meeting as he was attending the regular System meeting.

B. Presentation from Mr. Raajkumar Kurapati, VP for Finance and CFO

- Mr. Kurapati brought an update of Fiscal Years 2017 and 2018.
- Mr. Kurapati gave a brief explanation of the plans in progress to meet the needs of the University during the current financial downturn. He discussed the work of the University Budget Council and the recommendations sent forward by UBC to Dr. Tallant.

IV. Report of Officers

- a. Senate President Miller reported on Dr. Rasmussen's trip to India.
- b. President Miller also reported that many students were taking only 12 credit hours a semester and that students could take up to 18 hours with no additional cost. He encouraged faculty to work with students, parents, and advisors and encourage students to take more hours when possible to eliminate extra costs.
- c. President Miller reported on President Tallant's response to Faculty Senate recommendations.
 - i. Merit Pay Recommendation: awaiting Mr. [Kurapati's](#) review and recommendation.
 - ii. Annual Faculty Lecture: approved.
 - iii. Distinguished Service Award: approved.
 - iv. Distinguished Service Award: approved, but Faculty Senate must develop criteria for award.
 - v. Faculty Re-Training: will support three faculty members annually, but Faculty Senate must develop criteria.
 - vi. Faculty Workload: no response.

V. Old Business:

- a. **Faculty Senate Distinguished Service Award** – A motion was made that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee would determine the recipient of this award from nominations made by the full Senate, and that a plaque will be presented to recipients of the award. Motion passed.

- b. **Summer Class Times:** The recommendation was accepted to shorten the time between classes.

VI. Standing Committee Reports

- a. **Resolution and By-laws/Handbook Committee** – No report. President Miller discussed the fact that there is no section in the Faculty Handbook that addresses appeals for denial of tenure or stopping the tenure clock for health reasons. President Miller tasked the Committee to reach out to Faculty for help in reviewing the Faculty Handbook. President Miller also mentioned the Faculty Handbook clause that forbids some staff from being paid to teach (in addition to their regular work). A resolution addressing this issue was passed and sent to the President during Dr. Vargas' Senate Presidency.
- b. **Committee on Committees** – No report.
- c. **Election Committee (Changes to FS Constitution)** – No report.

VII. Reports from Committees Reporting to the Senate

- a. **Administrator Evaluation Committee** – Need to begin the process.
- b. **Annual Faculty Lecture Committee** President Tallant will fund lecture. 2018 Lecture will be delivered by – Dr. Steve Bain. 2019 Faculty Lecture will be announced at the Spring Faculty Lecture presentation. Date to be announced.
- c. **Faculty Evaluation Committee** – Senator McDonnell presented the report and it was approved to move forward with the following changes:
- Delete “collegiality” from 3.1.B
 - In B.3.1.1.b add “professional” before ethical behavior.
 - In B.3.1.f change “a priori” for “before the process begins”
 - In B.3.1.1.g remove the last sentence: “This is currently a requirement that is at times not observed”.
 - In B.3.1.1.i delete: “To further streamline faculty evaluation process,” and substitute the word “must” for “should” to read: “Electronic portfolios are recommended for the review processes and materials readily available online should not be reproduced...”
 - In B.3.3 substitute the word “young” for “junior”.
 - Delete appendices.
- d. **University Appeals Committee** – No report.

VIII. Task Force Reports

- a. **Team Teaching** – No report.
- b. **Summer Salary Caps** – No report.
- c. **Task Force on Salary Compression/Gender Equity** – Committee is seeking data for non-tenure track faculty. They have no data for promotion yet. Comments should be directed to Senator Blake.
- d. **SRI Revision** – Senator Janzen assured the Senate that she had given clear instructions to OIR concerning the SRI and there were still some problems. Suggestions were made to not use new faculty in testing instruments. Senate recommended a new SRI evaluation be conducted this Spring.

IX. New Business

- a. **Task Force to Create Policy on Honor Cords worn at Commencement** – Senators Oblad and Fronckowiak will draft a policy for Academic Regalia.

X. Announcements. No announcements were made.

XI. Adjournment. At 5:09 p.m., a motion to adjourn was made and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

María de Jesús Ayala-Schueneman
Faculty Senate Secretary