

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – October 3, 2017

Senators Present: Polly Allred, Ambrose Anoruo, Maria Ayala-Schueneman, Santa Barraza, Marion Blake, Jieming Chen, Horacio Duarte, Christine Fiestas, Ann Fronckowiak, Karen Furgerson, Kristopher Garza, Jeffrey Glick, Christopher Hearon, Brent Hedquist, Elizabeth Janzen, Kai Jin, Joseph, Jones, Larry Knight, Tanner Machado, Lana McDonnell, Brian Menaker, Craig A. Meyer, Richard Miller, Patrick Mills, Tim Oblad, Joseph Sai, Ari Sherris, Jack Shorter, Tushar Sinha, Amit Verma, Randall Williams, Nuri Yilmazer Hong Zhou

Senators Absent: Natasha Bell, Rudolf Bohm, Armando Garza, Dongnyoung Kim, Barbara Oates, Patricia Polastri, Elda E. Sanchez, Pamela Wright, Subbarao Yelisetti,

Attending: Dr. Allen Rasmussen, Interim Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

- I. **Call to Order and Quorum Call.**

At 3:31 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 October 2017 Faculty Senate Meeting.**

President Miller asked for approval of the previous meeting's minutes. The minutes were approved.
- III. **Presentations.**
 - a. **Presentation from Dr. Allen Rasmussen, Interim Provost**
 - Dr. Rasmussen's presentation was moved to 4 p.m. (after announcements)
 - Dr. Rasmussen reported that this was his second day on the job and that he was trying to keep things moving. He answered several questions.
- IV. **Report of Officers**
 - a. **Senate President Report.** President Miller reported on Provost Anderson's resignation. He met briefly with Dr. Rasmussen. The Council of Chairs meeting was cancelled.
- V. **Standing Committees Reports**
 - a. **Resolution and By-laws/Handbook Committee.** The Committee needs to meet and prepare the Annual Faculty Evaluation Report for the Faculty Handbook (November 1st deadline). Senator Anoruo, chair.
 - b. **Committee on Committees.** Senator Machado, chair.
 - c. **Election Committee.** Senator Furgerson, the Committee Chair will send out an email with time and place for October 10 meeting.
- VI. **Report from Committees Reporting to the Senate.**

President Miller reminded Committees to meet and choose a chair and to review the Committee's purpose and function. The Piper Award Committee must have senior level faculty. It was recommended that volunteers be solicited for the various committees.
- VII. **Old Business**
 - a. **SRI Evaluation Redo.** Senator Janzen explained how the courses and faculty had been chosen. With OIR on board after some miscommunication, SRI evaluation redo should be ready for this Fall's SRIs. Some questions and concerns were raised. Senator Janzen addressed them.
 - b. **Faculty Evaluation Proposal.** Senate President Miller discussed the initiative started by former Provost Rex Gandy, presented to both the Council of Chairs and the Faculty Senate, concerning faculty evaluations. After a brief discussion, Senate President Miller said that a committee of Department Chairs was working

on a formative evaluation including teaching circles and visitations, and including online courses, independent courses, and graduate courses.

VIII. Announcements

- a. **Ratification of Amendments to the Senate Constitution by the General Faculty.** Senate President Miller reminded the Senate that each clause needs approval by two thirds of voting general faculty. Department chairs will be informed, and the faculty will receive the Constitutional amendment ballots next week.
- b. **Senior Faculty Reinvestment Program.** Senate President Miller informed the Senate that Provost Anderson approved this program. It is hoped that Provost Rasmussen will continue the program.
 - \$1,000 - \$3,000 every year per professor
 - Professional Development Leave program
 - Distinguished Professor of Service award for scholarship, teaching, and service

IX. Items from Proposed Initiative of Action Plan, 2017-2018.

- a. **Recommendation to include college in undergraduate diplomas.** It was moved to take the proposal to the Student Government Association for their input
- b. **Two initiatives.**
 - **Memorial for the Fallen.** A request from the Student Government Association to support a Memorial of the Fallen was made last Spring.
 - **Increase in Student Services Fee.** This will provide funds to help defray student costs of presenting at conferences, meetings, etc.
- c. **Summer Salary Cap.** President Tallant has agreed to look at what other institutions are doing. A Task Force (Senator Furgerson and Senator Knight) will look at peer comparisons of other institutions' practices. The Task Force will bring recommendations to the next Senate meeting.
- d. **Non-Paid Independent Classes.** Senate President Miller discussed the issue of non-paid independent study classes.
- e. **Team Teaching.** Senate President Miller discussed the issue of the lack of policies for team teaching. There is no distinction between team teaching and turn teaching. A Task Force will check on policies at other universities - Senators Mills and McDonnell.
- f. **Dr. William Heenan, former Professor & Dean of Engineering.** Senator Verma stated that the former Dean of Engineering had passed away, and that the University had made no announcement of his death.
- g. **WorkDay.** Senator Fiestas and other senators expressed concerns about the implementation of WorkDay and 9/12 month contracts.

- X. Adjournment.** At 4:42 p.m., a motion to adjourn was made and passed.

Respectfully submitted
María de Jesús Ayala-Schueneman