

Minutes of Faculty Senate 4/3/17 Meeting 112 Hathaway Hall

Senators

Ibukun Amusan (Math & Sci) E
Ken Andries (AFE) E
Nancy Capriles (BSS)
Rene Desborde (Business) A
Gary Elliott (WYS)
Maheteme Gebremedhin (AFE)
Caroline Gibson (FIAR)
Cindy Glass (BSS)
William Graham (EDU)
Robert Griffin (FIAR)
Buddhi Gywali (AFE) E
Dantrea Hampton (Library) E
Jens Hannemann (Comp Sci)
Ashok Kumar (at large)
Vikas Kumar (AQU) A
Li Lu (Math & Sci) A
Patti Marraccini (Nursing)
Rebecca McCoy (Nursing)

Joe Moffett (LLP)
Narayanan Rajendran (at large) E
Reba Rye (at large) E
Rita Sharma (Math & Sci) E
Kimberly Sipes (at large)
Peter Smith (LLP)
Stephen Ulrich (PUA, CJ, SW) E
Changzheng Wang (at large) A

Ex Officio Members and Guests

VPAA Candice Jackson
Mara Merlino
Jo Anne Rainey
Cynthia Shelton
Roosevelt Shelton
Erin Gilliam
Michael Weaver
Tierra Freeman

1. Call to Order

President Sipes called the meeting to order at 3:20pm. Since only eleven senators were present there was no quorum and business couldn't be conducted until more members arrived. President Sipes suggested senators and guests discuss relevant issues in the meantime.

VPAA Jackson noted that the ad hoc committee on advising needed to meet. She also observed the given the lack of quorum at present, more senate meetings may need to be scheduled to be sure action items are completed before the end of the term.

Discussion ensued regarding hard and soft deadlines for items to come through senate, particularly from the curriculum committee. The Registrar needs to be notified that more items may arrive since she had set last week as the deadline for item inclusion in the new catalogue. Dr. Jackson said that adding new items to the catalogue will be easy given its electronic format.

2. Faculty Senate President Report

a. Upcoming Faculty Senate Elections / Nominating Committee

President Sipes outlined the process by which new senators are elected and officers installed. Problems with the process were noted since college deans once played a role in certain processes

and the guidelines have not been updated. Similarly, Past Senate Presidents Smith and Freeman explained the need for electronic voting since face-to-face meetings did not always yield a sufficient number of nominees. President Sipes clarified for Dr. Jackson the separate procedures for the votes on new senators and then officers.

b. Faculty Senate Resolutions

President Sipes noted that the external consultants had worked on resolutions for faculty but without senate input. The executive committee will work on reviewing the resolutions. Ex comm will then bring those revised resolutions to the general faculty.

President Sipes addressed a recent *State Journal* article where consultant Cary Nelson declared senate to be “white controlled.” She noted that no one knows who voted how in the recent confidence votes and pointed out that the number of white senators and those of color is similar. She stressed that each person has only one vote. VPAA Jackson and a guest objected to reducing the issue to numbers. Another guest pointed out how numbers do not necessarily tell the story when one considers situations such as Apartheid-era South Africa. A third guest noted that white faculty intentionally joined the university with appreciation for its HBCU heritage and that the language being used by the consultants is further dividing us. A senator noted his disappointment that the executive committee doesn’t look like him. President Sipes responded that only two of the four senate officers are white. Dr. Jackson argued that we need to confront the issue that we have a situation wherein a group of faculty have felt so marginalized that they have created their own caucus. She said that no matter what one’s intention is, the response to the concerns of others is the key.

A quorum was achieved at 3:53pm, so the meeting proceeded with business.

3. Report of the Academic Policies Committee – Joe Moffett

Chair Moffett discussed two action items the committee had been working on for some time. The first, APC 16-17.01 Remedial Course Repeat Credit, is intended to help students improve their GPAs since remedial courses are no longer offered and therefore students can’t take advantage of the repeat option. This item suggested a remedy to the situation. Reservations were expressed, however, about the number of substitutions, particularly where Math was concerned. The Registrar said that she would like to have more time to consider the issue, so the item was tabled.

The next item, APC 16-17.06 Course Cancellation Policy, was similarly tabled because the Registrar wanted more time to review the document and to consider how she might make suggestions for additions or alterations.

4. Report of the Curriculum Committee – Ken Andries

Chair Andries was away at a conference so Senator Robert Griffin filled in for him.

CC 16-17.40 Revised PHI Courses

This item was an updated version reviewed at the last senate meeting. It had been sent back to committee. Senator Gary Elliott was present to explain the alterations he had made.

The item passed unanimously.

CC 16-17.49 EDU Hours for PHE 323

School of Education Chair Jo Anne Rainey was present to explain that this proposal changed the course from 2 to 3 hours. At some point in the past the hours had been reduced but they really should be 3. Discussion ensued about how the Education program has separate curriculum review and approval processes and how those processes dovetail with senate's.

The item passed unanimously.

CC 16-17.50 EDU 204

This item passed unanimously, but with the friendly amendment that language related to making it an IGS course be dropped since that needs to happen through a separate curriculum revision process.

CC 16-17.51 EDU Title Change for EDU 323

The item passed unanimously.

CC 16-17.52 EDU Deletion of four courses; create EDU 454

Conversation began on this item, but at 4:37pm President Sipes noted that the quorum had been lost. Dr. Rainey explained that the course simplified the student teaching oversight for an instructor.

5. Report of the Professional Concerns Committee – Cindy Glass

Since the quorum was lost, the meeting proceeded with more informational items while Dr. Roosevelt Shelton attempted to call Senator Caroline Gibson to come to the meeting to reestablish the quorum. Chair Glass explained that a PCC Action Item on Sick Leave originated from the discovery of a faculty member when he stopped by KTRS to check on his sick leave hours that could be applied to retirement and learned they had been eliminated in November 2014 in an action by President Burse and the Board of Regents. Chair Glass checked with KTRS and verified the information. The *Faculty Handbook* was never updated to reflect this change. If this item is passed, PCC asks that it be presented to the Board in April.

Dr. Gibson arrived at 4:42pm to reestablish the quorum.

The action item notes this change should have been communicated to faculty through the Budget committee. It calls for the sick leave to be reinstated and for any faculty to be credited with the

sick leave that was taken away. Dr. Jackson responded that the day to day operation of the university was the responsibility of President Burse and he should have notified everyone, not the Board; they would have expected him to have done that. Senate Vice President Kumar added that staff are equally affected. Dr. Jackson asked if this action was on behalf of staff too? Chair Glass responded that it is not an attempt to speak on their own behalf. President Sipes suggested the possibility of a joint resolution.

Dr. Jackson argued that if this item is passed we need to be sure everyone is consistently claiming sick days. A senator inquired if the issue should be tabled while senate looks into the sick leave policy. Vice President Kumar responded that the sick leave hour policy is a separate issue.

A vote yielded all in favor except two abstentions.

The quorum was lost again at 5:00pm.

President Sipes said she would call for a meeting the following week to finish business left undone. Dr. Jackson reminded everyone about the upcoming Honors Convocation and that all faculty need to be in regalia. President Sipes asked if 9:30 classes would be canceled. Dr. Jackson responded that they would be since everyone has to line up at 10am.

President Sipes noted that Dr. Roosevelt Shelton and Professor Erin Gilliam had an item they wanted to discuss and asked if they wanted to address it presently. They declined since there was no quorum.

6. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn carried at 5:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Moffett, Faculty Senate Secretary

[Approved by Senate, as distributed, on 4/17/17]