

Faculty Senate Business Meeting

October 23, 2023

via TEAMS

Members Present:

Michael Allen, Sean Alley, Megan Atkinson, Stephen Canfield, Scott Christen, Melissa Comer, Kris Craven, Mark Creter, Andrew Donadio, Dennis Fennewald, Mary Lou Fornehed, Steve Frye, Syed Hasan, Samantha Hutson, Krystal Kennedy, Matthew Langford, Richard Le Borne, Jane Liu, Mark Loftis, Jeannette Luna, Jennifer Mabry, Twanelle Majors, Ann Manginelli, Lori Maxwell, Holly Mills, Wendy Mullen, Michael Natrass, Linda Null, Brian O'Connor, Joseph Ojo, Hyewon Park, Mustafa Rajabali, Richard Rand, Steven Seiler, Lee Ann Shipley, Scott Smith, Troy Smith, Sandi Smith-Andrews, Amber Spears, Leslie Suters, Kyle Turner, Hannah Upole, Lenly Weathers, Brenda Wilson, Kimberly Winkle

Members Absent:

Teddy Burch, April Crockett, Yun Ding, Christy Killman, Christopher Reames

Guests Present:

Holly Anthony, Allan Mills

Call to Order

Senate President Allen called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m.

1. Approval of Agenda

Senator Fornehed made a motion to approve the agenda. Senator Scott Smith seconded. The motion carried.

2. Approval of Minutes and Notes from Previous Meetings

a. September 18, 2023, Business Meeting Minutes

Senator Smith-Andrews made a motion to approve the minutes. Senator Fornehed seconded. Senator Shipley requested a correction to her attendance, and the motion carried with the friendly amendment.

b. September 25, President's Meeting Notes

Senator Smith-Andrews made a motion to approve the notes. Senator Fornehed seconded. The motion carried.

3. General Education Task Force

Holly Anthony and Allan Mills reported the progress of the task force to date. So far, 11 town halls have been hosted and attended by employees and students. Employees learned of the town halls primarily via email or Tech Times, whereas students primarily learned of them via word of mouth. There will be five upcoming town halls for faculty and four for students. The task force strongly encourages participation from all units. Senators were complimentary of the task force's work thus far. Findings from this task force will be shared in the spring and surveys will be launched.

4. QEP Report

Senator Weathers shared that the QEP known as EDGE will sunset for the new QEP to launch in 2026. The current survey closes on Friday. Following that, there will be a call for mini-proposals for topics. More detailed proposals will be submitted in the spring. Graduate students may be included in the QEP if the topic lends itself to their participation. Those with questions should email Lenly Weathers.

5. Discussion about the Faculty Affairs Committee

Senate President Allen updated the Senate on the status of the Faculty Affairs Committee. Three seats must be filled, and the Deans of the Colleges of Business and Fine Arts have been asked for replacements for their seats. Senate President Allen asked the senators if there were any volunteers for the seat he must fill; Holly Mills volunteered and, hearing no objection from the Senate, was appointed by Senate President Allen.

The Faculty Affairs Committee meets only when there is a need, but it is often in summer when many of the faculty are not under contract. The Provost has been asked about compensation when the committee must meet outside of contracted work times.

6. Report from Faculty Senate President

Senate President Allen shared updates and items of interest on the Budget Advisory Committee.

The extra money made this year will go to emergencies and bills. Some avenues for this money were salary increases, LSC building maintenance, football, and software subscriptions. Some senators were concerned that the decisions to spend the money and where to spend it were already made before the BAC meeting. Senators would like to see this budget, and Senate President Allen said the data have been requested.

Senators discussed overall concerns with the budget in terms of how, when, and by whom decisions are made, why some departments seem to lose money and lines for other financial needs, the handling of carryforward money, the lack of promotion or additions to online learning for revenue generation, salary increases and reclassifications, and the transparency of the budget process. VP Stinson has said the budget is available in full for anyone to view.

7. Report from the Academic Council Chair

Senator Winkle had no updates as there have been no new meetings since the last report.

8. Report from the Administrative Council Chair

Senator Fornehed updated that Policy 508 was changed out-of-cycle to address Chartwells fees.

9. Questions for meeting with President Oldham on October 30

Some possible topics were discussed for consideration, such as:

- Student salaries: some students make more per hour than some full-time staff
- From where did the master plan originate?
- Campus expansion is great, but if budgeting for ongoing maintenance for new buildings isn't considered, is it sustainable? 82% of the budget is salaries, so it seems we let people go for new buildings, but we must increase enrollment.

- The salaries of Deans, Directors, and upper Administration should be compared with all other employees and shared.

10. Such Other Matters

Senator Creter encouraged all to come see “Carrie, the Musical” at the Backdoor Playhouse.

Senate President Allen shared the passing of employee Michelle Huddleston and how great her loss is to the campus. There will be a service Thursday at 11 a.m. in the RUC.

Adjournment

Senator Rand moved to adjourn the meeting. Senator Fornehed seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Approved: 01/29/2024