

Faculty Senate Business Meeting Minutes Monday November 18th 2024

Present: Michael Allen, Megan Atkinson, Scott Christen, Melissa Comer, Kris Craven, Mark Creter, Andrew Donadio, Dennis Fennewald, Joshua Field, Mary Lou Fornehed, Ka Grimes, Syed Rafay Hasan, Colin Hill, Amy Hill, Alfred Kalyanapu, Krystal Kennedy, Christy Killman, Matthew Langford, Richard LeBorne, Jeannette Luna, Jennifer Mabry, Twanelle Majors, Ann Manginelli, David Mann, Holly Mills, Linda Null, Brian O'Connor, Hyewon Park, Mustafa Rajabali, Steven Seiler, Lee Ann Shipley, Sandi Smith-Andrews, Amber Spears, Leslie Suters, Thomas Timmerman, Kristen Trent, Kyle Turner, Hannah Upole, Brenda Wilson, Kexin Xu,

Guests: Adam Holley, John Liu, Jeremy Wendt

Absent: Teddy Burch, Wei Tsun Chang, Jerry Gannod, Melissa Geist, Michael Nattrass, Joseph Ojo, Yi Peng, Dennis Tennant, Lenly Weathers

Meeting called to order at 3:35PM.

1. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Fornehed and second by Donadio. No discussion. Motion carried.
2. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings
 - a. October 21st, 2024: Motion by Smith-Andrews and second by Donadio. No discussion. Motion carried.
3. Report from University Research Advisory Committee – Dr. Adam Holley
 - a. Purview of committee is research across campus. Committee is composed of faculty and administration and meets with Dr. Liu to discuss how to improve doing research, policies, ways to enhance research activity without a lot of resources. Committee has met three times generating the following: ideas – incentivize creative output by rewarding smaller efforts (paper publication, etc.); action item – CAFÉ survey looking at general faculty experience and incentives for faculty.
 - b. Questions/Discussion: Dr. Liu appreciates working with the committee.
4. Report from Curriculum Committee – Dr. Jeremy Wendt
 - a. Fifty-five members serve on this committee, including several senators, chairs, deans, and administrative officers. The committee reviews new concentrations, programs, certificates, deletions, and name changes. It met twice in the fall and reviewed 30 new courses and 7 course edits. New concentrations and programs do make their way to Academic Council.
 - b. Questions/Discussion: none
5. Report from Academic Council – Dr. Kimberly Winkle
 - a. The council is composed of faculty, administrators, and student members. The student members are an active and important component. The council reviews new programs, academic requirements, termination of programs, new policies (such as Research Policies 790 and 791, the new academic integrity policy which had substantial changes). Substantive review requires two readings. A very active semester for the council.

- b. Questions/Discussion: none
- 6. Report from Administrative Council – Dr. Kris Craven
 - a. Administrative Council met three times during the semester and reviewed/approved Research Policies 790, 791, Policy 191 (Bicycles & Micro Transportation Devices), and Policy 560 (Cellular Service & Wireless Approval). Policies 191 and 560 underwent a first and second reading, as well as approval.
 - b. Questions/Discussion
 - i. Any comments or questions about policies to review? The tenure and promotion policy is undergoing significant review. Also looking at procedures for lecturers. The goals are to make the policy as clear as possible and move procedure out of policy.
 - ii. Who originally put forth the policy that was revised? Current policy is a reflection of changes over several years. Not sure when it was first created. Major revisions were presented to faculty senate, but before that have to go back to the faculty handbook that was written by faculty senate and AAUP
 - iii. T/P shifted from one to two policies when the university shifted to board governance
 - iv. There is good representation across faculty and ranks on the committee for T/P revisions
- 7. Update from Faculty Trustee – Dr. Jeannette Luna
 - a. In the spring there will be a call for a nominating committee for a board member. The board met in the spring and fall. Something to think about – compensation is more than money. What are some other benefits that are available at other universities that we might like to have here? Mental health and wellness resources, lower fees for fitness, free meals at the cafeteria, etc?
 - b. Questions/Discussion
 - i. Thanks to Dr. Luna for her service
 - ii. Senate President Rajabali has asked Trudy Harper about a compensation report with details.
 - iii. Faculty inversions were collected from deans and information given to the provost. Money for correcting those diversions are in Phase 3. October 1 was the first check for inversions to be corrected.
- 8. Update from Faculty Senate Ad-hoc committees
 - a. Policies: There are 273 total policies, with 79 past renewal date. Some policies are by passing shared governance. For example, the faculty sick leave bank (2023 review) is shown as “received by” but not as approved. Some policies are very out of cycle, such as 213 (Faculty Voluntary Separation) and 663 (Retirement). We can proactively ask to see policies that are up for renewal, and we do not need to wait for the renewal date if we feel that a policy needs review. The President has mentioned this at cabinet.
 - b. Parking: Met once to discuss and once online. There are definitely infrastructure and other challenges to parking. We need to understand what models the administration is using and what the revenue is being used for. We have a request for information and need to move forward with it. May reach out to SGA as part of the discussion on enforcement.

- c. Summer school: Need an answer from Provost about how she views the academic role of summer school. It seems to be viewed different than it was historically. Some faculty have been denied teaching in the summer because the classes are offered fall or spring. This was incorrectly attributed to the Provost. The Provost clarified that if a class is not full in the summer then there should be consideration given to whether or not it is needed. Mandates from the Provost about summer school should be should be shared directly with faculty.
9. Ratification of Faculty Affairs Committee: The document is on TEAMS. The list was voted on last year. Motion by Allen and second by O'Connor. List is ratified.
10. Report from Faculty Senate President:
- a. Polk-Johnson (Student Affairs) and marketing are doing a fantastic job.
 - b. Talon has potential for predictive analysis and transparency in the budget.
 - c. Enrollment is up 11%
 - d. Harry Ingle is the new SGA Advisor.
 - e. Safety on campus: There was an incident at Bartoo and Crawford – buildings broken into, trashed, and two students were harassed. New considerations for locking buildings, alarms, etc.
 - f. Suicide on campus: There is raised awareness here and at other universities. The President has raised the issue with Governor Lee. Mental health needs to be addressed.
 - g. Capital outlay: ACME is short of funds. Matthew-Daniels – if not funded will ask for planning and design.
 - h. TUFTS meeting: Meeting took place in Memphis. The legislative liaison suggested to collect a list of good things faculty do to share with the liaison so they are aware of what goes on.
 - i. Ombudsman: Will pull together information from other institutions on what works and what doesn't.
11. Such Other Matters: Faculty Senate retreat in January. We may work on policies, discuss shared governance without time constraints. Senate President Rajabali will send out a poll to measure willingness.

Calendar Reminders:

Senator meeting dates (business and other) can be found here: [Faculty Senate Meeting Dates for 2024.docx](#)

Meeting with President – November 25th, 2024.

Breakfast with Board of Trustees – December 5th, 2024.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:21 PM. Motion by Smith-Andrews and second by Mills. Motion carried.

Approved: January 27, 2025