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Minutes

Faculty Senate

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9-14-2021

### September 14, 2021

Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate 2021-2022  
Agenda and Minutes September 14, 2021

Senators in Attendance: Teshome Abebe, Todd Bruns, Amy Davis, Brad Decker, Stephen Kozlowski, Nichole Mulvey, Alicia Neal, Jeanne Okrasinski, Stephen Kozlowski, Andrew Parrish (arrived 2:20), Will Porter, Jeff Stowell, Steve Scher, Larry White (arrived 2:10)

Guests Present: VPAA Jay Gatrell, Robert Le Cates (Daily Eastern News), Madelyn Kidd (Daily Eastern News)

Senator Bruns called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

- I. Approval of minutes from 8/31 – Motion by Senator Abebe, second by Senator Porter to approve minutes as presented. Passed with 10 senators voting yes and 2 (Neal, Scher) abstaining
- II. Committee reports
  - a. Exec (Bruns/Stowell/Mulvey) – Senator Bruns attended the recent Board of Trustees meeting to provide a new year summary and establish communication. The next executive meeting with the President and Provost is scheduled for September 27<sup>th</sup>. Senator Bruns will be setting up meetings with chairs of other shared governance entities to discuss goals and share information.
  - b. Elections & Nominations (Stowell) – Since our last meeting, we did not have any candidates to run against our single candidates, thus the senate had voted via email that we would not have elections this fall since the two nominations were running unopposed.
    - i. Approved election of Melissa Caldwell as the CLAS representative on University Personnel Committee
    - ii. Approved Bonnie Laughlin-Schultz as the CLAS representative on Council of Graduate Studies
    - iii. Approved Amy Paredes as the CHHS representative for Booth Library (via email vote, all Senators voting yes)
    - iv. Open call for COE for FDIC board but no nominations at this time
    - v. Open LCBT seat on faculty senate remains open
  - c. Student & Staff Relations (Davis/Bruns) – Senator Bruns met with representative from staff senate. Remote work has been approved on a case-by-case basis for individuals who have young children who may be quarantined. Staff and Faculty senate looking at staff morale. No report on student relations, not meeting yet. Senator Davis will reach out to student senate to determine who will be the student representative.
  - d. Faculty Forum (Mulvey) – Senator Mulvey is still working with the speaker to secure a date but we plan on a Thursday afternoon (likely in October) from 3:00-4:00 p.m.
  - e. Awards (Bruns) – The Clay Mendez Award application was distributed to faculty on September 2<sup>nd</sup> via email. Senator Mulvey will send out a reminder email on

September 23<sup>rd</sup> with nominations due October 1<sup>st</sup>. Please encourage your colleagues to nominate deserving individuals.

- f. Parliamentarian – This is a position that FS is supposed to have but has not consistently been utilized in the past. Discussion included who, if anyone, should serve in this role. Senator Scher volunteered to be this position for this academic year.
- III. Provost's report
- a. Vaccine verification process updates include 76% of employees (faculty and staff) fully vaccinated and 62% of students verified and 3% in process. Senators are encouraged to talk to students about getting their vaccine verified or sign up for weekly testing. Progressive discipline for noncompliance began this week (for students, first week is a reminder/reprimand, second week is a \$150 fine with student judicial, third week is additional fine and hold on account, with continued disciplinary actions discussed past this). The goal is compliance in whatever form works to keep everyone safe. Faculty should also encourage students who are not vaccinated to choose to physically distance in classrooms to promote safety on campus and so we can contract trace, decreasing need for quarantine. We have about 140% more classes F2F this year than last, so many more students are on campus. Provost Gatrell will send FS some points to share with students to encourage compliance as appropriate.
  - b. Enrollment data looks good and stable compared to other similar regional institutions. Recruitment has been a challenge in the COVID era and Provost thanks all faculty and recruitment/admissions that worked so hard in the challenging environment.
  - c. Today 19 faculty hiring positions were released, with 11 being Unit A. Additional announcements about hiring are anticipated related to a surge in international students. We are moving in a positive direction compared to five years ago.
  - d. Updates from Board of Trustees meeting were shared. We shared our HLC report from the HLC task force and are moving to revise policies and practices.
  - e. We have purchased 400 laptops with HERF funding to help with transitioning of teaching capabilities and older machines. Of those, 175 are going to faculty/staff with older machines and others available to students for use. Faculty can request MAC upgrades with an upcharge. Question from Senator Stowell about terminal machines (not camera ready) and status on where those may be being utilized. Provost Gatrell described that many of these machines are in lab environments that do not require cameras.
  - f. Question from Senator Abebe about how prerequisites are monitored and enforced. It was suggested that questions can be directed to registrar if faculty do not feel prerequisites are being enforced. An internal auditor search is currently under way and an internal audit could be conducted in this area.
- IV. Discussion: The coming academic year
- a. Remaining items from 2020-2021
    - i. Does Fac Senate need a committee on DEI, or a joint committee with Staff and Student Senates? Senator Porter invoked discussion about our

role in DEI and how best to support a community/campus effort to advance DEI goals. There is a President's Council for Diversity and there is a search for Senior Diversity Officer which will have specific roles and standards. Discussion about if an ad hoc DEI committee is warranted and would be beneficial at this time. FS decided that executive committee will discuss having a member of FS on the President's Council of Diversity so we know current plans and how we can facilitate growth moving forward.

- ii. Lincoln-Douglas Naming – The EIU naming committee did vote that the building should be renamed. Now the president will be putting out a call for a new name and work with a committee to do so.
- b. Topics for 2021-2022
- i. Guest speakers – A list of possible guest speakers was generated and included each VP and Dean, head of athletics department, Charleston mayor, member of the state assembly/government for our area, state of ITS infrastructure (Ryan Gibson), health services and faculty/student needs, diversity/inclusion initiatives, interaction with BOT
  - ii. On campus in the COVID era: Concerns?
    - 1. Student mental health – Faculty Forum focus, Suicide Awareness in October, having Anne Flaherty as guest speaker
    - 2. Increasing faculty morale/faculty mental health – we want faculty to know we are there for them and a campaign for communication was discussed; if Senators are interested in meeting with other departments to get input and feedback on goals/priorities, they should contact Senator Bruns with their interest. We will try to complete this within this fall semester.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20.