

Faculty Senate MINUTES – November 13, 2018

In Attendance: Aileen Ajootian, Amal Dass, April Holm, Beth Ann Fennelly, Brad Jones, Brenda Prager, Caecilia Parks, Cole Stevens, Corina Petrescu, Cristie Ellis, Dennis Bunch, Evangeline W. Robinson, Fei Lan, Jeff Pickerd, Jennifer Gifford, Jeremy Clark, John Berns, John Schuesselin, Kathleen Fuller, KoFan Lee, Kristin Rogers, Kyle Fritz, Laura Prior, Marilyn Mendolia, Mary Roseman, Matt Bondurant, Meagen Rosenthal, Michael Barnett, Nancy Wicker, Phillis George, René Pulliam, Robert Van Ness, Saim Kashmiri, Simone Delerme, Stacey Lantagne, Stephen Monroe, Stuart Haines, Sumali Conlon, Tamara Warhol, Tejas Pandya, Tess Lefmann, Thomas Peattie, Vivian Ibrahim, Zachary Kagan Guthrie

Substitutions: Frances Kneupper (Vivian Ibrahim), Mandy Perryman (Dennis Bunch), Linda Keena (Kimberly Kaiser), Kirk Johnson (Ana Velitchkova)

Absent: Le'Trice Donaldson, Chris Mullen, Carolyn Higdon, Lei Cao, Chalet Tan, Breese Quinn, Susan Allen, Roy Thurston, Andy Cheng,

Meeting:

- **Call Meeting to Order**
 - Called to order 6:00

- **Approval of 9 Oct. 2018 Minutes**
 - Motion: Corina Petrescu
 - Second: Stephen Monroe
 - Vote: All in favor

- **Katie Busby and Rich Forgette: QEP Introduction**
 - Objective: Critical thinking in lower division classes
 - Goal 1: Cultivate and develop the ability of faculty to better foster critical thinking
 - There will be a large faculty development component with this project
 - Goal 2: Create a more engaged student learning environment
 - Actions (7 total):
 - Hire QEP director to lead faculty development
 - Create faculty approaches to critical thinking (FACT) institute

- Summer institute program
 - Align existing CETL development activities with QEP
 - Launch critical thinking redesign grants
 - Create critical thinking teaching and learning guide
 - Build critical thinking student cohorts
 - Redesign physical classroom spaces to support critical thinking
- Assessment process:
 - Direct assessments examples:
 - Nationally-normed instrument
 - Course embedded assessment
 - Indirect assessments examples:
 - National survey of student engagement
 - Student evaluations of instructions
- Questions:
 - Q: Are we wanting departments to integrate this into their assessment plans?
 - A: We would welcome this of course, but this is a university level assessment.

- **Committee Reports**

- Academic Instructional Affairs (Corina Petrescu)
 - No report
- Academic Conduct (Vivian Ibrahim)
 - No report
- Finance & Benefits (Phillis George)
 - No report
- Development & Planning (Mary Roseman)
 - No report
- Governance (April Holm)
 - No report
- Research & Creative Achievement (Thomas Peattie)
 - No report
- University Services (Brad Jones)

- No report
- Executive Committee (Brice Noonan)
 - Academic freedom
 - Timeline from Brice (See previous EMAIL)
 - November 5th Elected officers and Past-Chair met with Chancellor and presented our concerns about a number of issues
 - Respect for academic freedom
 - Public response to a faculty member’s twitter post
 - Comments on Microaggressions Report
 - Naming of Haley Barbour Center for the Study of American Politics
 - EC discussed coming to this meeting with a prepared resolution, but opted to give the rest of the senate the opportunity to weigh in a comment
 - Introductions – Jeff Jackson professor and chair of Department Sociology and Anthropology (Guest 1); Kirk Johnson – Associate professor of Sociology and one of the lead authors on the Microaggressions Report (Guest 2)
 - Will be a resource for the Senate’s discussion
 - Motion 1: Stacey Lantagne
 - “I move that we issue a statement that speaks to the concerns of faculty about academic freedom”
 - Second – Corina Petrescu
 - Motion 2: Stacey - Can I also move that we have this discussion informally
 - Second – Stephan Monroe
 - Vote: All in favor
 - Motion 1 discussion:
 - Comment: We want to make sure to consider not just the past and what has happened. We now face a search for a new Chancellor and this is an opportunity for us to make a statement as a faculty about how we want to work going forward

- Q: Is there a reason why the Provost's forum on the Microaggressions Report was cancelled?
 - A: I have no information presently. I have tried to get as much information as possible, but it has been very difficult. I didn't know about the Chancellor's resignation until 9:30 Friday morning, when I got a call from the Chronicle.
 - F/U (Jeff Jackson): Given the threats we were receiving to the department and the authors. We asked the Provost to postpone the forum, until a time when a better discussion could be had.
- Chair: I believe that the Committee on Faculty Governance should be tasked with drafting the resolution
- Q: How will academic freedom be protected going forward?
 - A: The provost has recently sent out a reaffirmation of the university's commitment to academic freedom. This statement includes both the 1940s and the AAUPE academic freedom statements (see email from Brice), as well as the university's policy. If we are not following our own policies then that is a problem that our body is responsible for pointing out and helping to address.
- Q: Did we ever determine what policy was violated with the naming and creation of the Haley Barbour Center for the Study of American Politics?
 - A: The current policy does not specifically address this issue, but the center is called an "academic" center, and a number of university councils, that should have been consulted, were not allowed to appropriately consider it. It is also tangential to the issue of academic freedom. We will have to talk with the Provost about this.
 - Q: Would it be possible to make a statement asking for some clarity on this process?

with the Chancellor about our concerns, and repairing the damage done by the editorial.

- Guest 2: I want to say that we appreciate that the Faculty Senate is willing to speak on the issue. It is important especially in light of the lack of comment from the Lyceum.
- Vote for Motion 1:
 - In favor: 43
 - Opposed: 0

- **Old Business**

- The addition of the A+ to the grading scale
 - This will be coming in the future, the EC has a report to consider and will let you know when we have an opportunity to look it over again.
 - Comment: Surprised at the tone in the DM that suggested that the change in the grades would be coming soon
 - F/U: There seemed to a miscommunication between the EC and ASB members who met in the spring.

- **New Business**

- Tony Ammeter – The Division of Outreach is going to have an open house in the Jackson Ave Center to show off the new facilities Thursday, November 29 4-6pm

- **Adjournment**

- Motion – Mary Roseman
 - Second – Corinia Petrescu
 - Vote: All in favor