

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

January 25, 2021

The Pittsburg State University Faculty Senate met at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, January 25, 2021, with Cole Shewmake, President, presiding.

Past Minutes

Minutes from the December 7, 2020 meeting were approved.

Guest Speaker

Dr. Shewmake introduced guest speaker, Noah Larson with SGA to discuss the Gorilla Support Network proposal. Mr. Larson shared that the Gorilla Support Network is a network that facilitates free participation in group discussions covering a variety of topics. Students, faculty and the greater community are able to participate. A trained individual will lead each group. The network is a joint project between SGA and the Bryant Health Center and is modeled after a similar program at the University of Michigan. The network is expected to be fully operational by Fall 2021. HIPAA is not a concern since the group discussions are not official counseling sessions. Mr. Larson also shared that next month he will be proposing another program for autistic students. It was noted that faculty also need to be informed of how best they can accommodate students with autism.

Announcements

Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs – Dr. Howard Smith

Dr. Smith thanked everyone for their efforts to get the semester underway. News from the latest KBOR meeting includes a discussion regarding the approval process of associate degrees at the 4-year institutions. Pitt State recently legislated a new AAS in the College of Technology. Discussion focused on the need to provide an opportunity to the 2-year institutions to provide feedback. This was not part of the process previously. Three responses were received from the 2-year sector regarding the new AAS and all comments were in support of the degree. The low enrollment report is due soon to KBOR. Dr. Smith will be presenting the report in February. Programs will be presented in blocks depending on how they meet the KBOR definitions for program review. During K-State's presentation KBOR directed changes to K-State's curriculum. Dr. Smith had not seen this type of action taken in the past by KBOR. Dr. Smith also addressed KBOR's new personnel policy and stressed that Pitt State will not be utilizing the policy.

Dr. Smith shared that no mental health days have been added to the schedule. Please keep students in mind throughout the semester. Dr. Smith also noted that we have a home football game the Saturday of Fall Break 2021. It is likely Fall Break will be rescheduled. There is an option to move Fall Break to Thanksgiving week. Dr. Smith would appreciate any feedback on this option. As of now summer and fall course delivery is being approached the same as it was for this spring considering the status of the pandemic. The situation is being monitored and adjustments will be made if warranted. Lastly, if you didn't get a chance to watch the legislative town hall, it is still available for viewing.

PSU/KNEA –Khamis Siam, President

Dr. Siam reported that they have reached out to the KNEA lawyers regarding the new KBOR personnel policy. The KNEA lawyers noted that the KNEA contract would supersede the new KBOR policy. Dr. Siam also spoke to the administration and shared that the administration has no intention to utilize the new KBOR policy. Lastly, there is a meeting tomorrow with the administration to discuss the new contract.

Student Senate – Bella L'Heureux, Representative

SGA representative Sumner Mackey reported that applications for Professor Beyond the Classroom grants for summer and fall are now open. The application is available on Gorilla Engage. Student Opportunity grants are also now available for student applications. These grants are intended for students who might have financial issues such as having an internship opportunity that is an unpaid position. In light of no mental health days being added to the schedule, faculty stressed to Mr. Mackey to encourage students to reach out to their instructors when they are experiencing difficulties. Mr. Mackey noted that some students are hesitant to reach out directly to instructors, but SGA will continue to encourage students to do so. Mr. Mackey's experience is that if students are willing to reach out, the issues is typically resolved quickly.

Unclassified Professional Senate – Jason Kegler, President

Dr. Kegler welcomed everyone back. Recently, the Unclassified Professional Senate approved their slate of officers. Mary Jo Meier will be the new President. Dr. Kegler also noted that the staff morale survey conducted by the Docking Institute will be done again soon statewide.

University Support Staff – Terri Blessent, President

No report.

Faculty Senate President – Cole Shewmake, President

Dr. Shewmake reported that the Free Expression statement has gone to KBOR. Please let him know if you have any questions. The new KBOR personnel policy has been discussed by the Faculty Senate Presidents. The Faculty Senate Presidents have created a resolution of non-support for the policy. It is believed that only one of the KBOR institutions may utilize the new policy.

Dr. Shewmake also shared that there has been no action by President's Council to create Mental Health Days. In addition, Apple Day is scheduled for March 1st. Instead of apples, the plan is to pass out stress ball apples to students. Lastly, Spring Convocation will be by video this year.

Committee Reports

Academic Affairs – Steve Cox, Chair

No report.

Undergraduate Curriculum – Mary Jo Goedeke, Chair

Dr. Hendershot reported that all curriculum items were approved by the committee and recommends all curriculum items on the agenda.

All curriculum items recommended by the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee were approved

Library Services/Learning Resources – Stella Hasting, Chair

No report.

Online and Distance Learning – Krissy Lewis, Chair

No report.

Academic Honors – John Daley, Chair

No report.

Honors College – Michael Davidsson, Chair

No report.

Writing Across the Curriculum – Laura Covert-Miller, Chair

No report.

Diversity and Multicultural Affairs – Jessica Jorgenson-Borchert, Chair

No report.

Student-Faculty – Gail Yarick, Chair

No report.

All University Committee – Tatiana Goris, Chair

No report.

Faculty Affairs – Trina Larery, Chair

No report.

Constitution Committee –James Whitney, Chair
No report.

Pitt State Pathway Committee – Michelle Hudiburg, Chair
No report.

Budget Committee – Tatiana Goris, Chair
No report.

Academic Honesty – Shawnee Hendershot, Chair
No report.

Unfinished Business

The second reading of the amendment to clarify the nomination process for the executive committee was completed. Next month, the vote will go to the general faculty.

New Business

It was reported that the application and admission counts from the Admission Hobsons reports have not been updated since March 2020. The Admission Office plans to email each department a spreadsheet of all students admitted as of January 2021. Dr. Smith mentioned that he will follow up with Scott Donaldson for additional details.

Dr. Moss asked if Faculty Senate had representation on Program Review. It was shared that the chair of the Faculty Affairs committee is on the Program Review committee.

Open Forum

It was shared that Crawford County is in Phase 2 of vaccinations. This includes those who are 65 years of age or older. There will be a hotline that people can call to get on the list. You can call the hotline to get on the list even if you are not included in Phase 2. Shawn Naccarato and Abby Fern have been advocating for Pitt State to be included in K-12 vaccinations.

The Writing Center is open. They have face-to-face and online appointments available. Face-to-face is available Monday through Friday and online is available on Sundays.

Meeting Adjourned Meeting adjourned Monday, January 25, 2021 at 3:48 p.m.



Melinda Roelfs, Recording Secretary

**FACULTY SENATE MEMBERSHIP
(2020-2021)**

| | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | March | April | May |
|---|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|-----|
| Cole Shewmake, (President) | X | X | X | X | X | | | | |
| Bracker, (Past President) | X | | X | X | X | | | | |
| Bailey, (At-Large) | X | | | X | X | | | | |
| Binder, (Undergrad Kelce) | X | X | X | X | X | | | | |
| Butler, (Physics) | | | | | | | | | |
| Carlson, (English & Modern Language) | X | X | | | | | | | |
| Coltharp, (Mathematics) | X | X | X | X | X | | | | |
| Conrad, (Women's Studies) | X | X | X | X | X | | | | |
| Coomes, (Nursing) | X | X | X | X | X | | | | |
| Cox, (Library) | X | X | X | | X | | | | |
| Cronister, (Family & Consumer Science) | | X | X | | X | | | | |
| Daczewitz, (Teaching & Leadership) | | | | | * | | | | |
| Drew, (Communication) | | X | | | | | | | |
| Frisbee, (Nursing) | X | * | | X | * | | | | |
| Goedeke, (At-Large) | | X | | | X | | | | |
| Goris, (At-Large) | X | | | | | | | | |
| Hendershot, (At-Large) | X | X | | X | X | | | | |
| Hermansson, (At-Large) | X | X | X | | X | | | | |
| Hite, (At-Large) | X | X | X | X | X | | | | |
| Jones, (TWL) | | X | X | X | X | | | | |
| Jorgenson-Borchert, (At-Large) | X | X | X | X | X | | | | |
| Kehle, (Music) | X | X | X | X | X | | | | |
| Lawson, (History, Philosophy & Social Science) | X | X | X | X | | | | | |
| Maxwell, (Engineering) | | X | X | X | X | | | | |
| McConnaughey, (Graphics) | | | | * | * | | | | |
| Moss, (At-Large) | X | X | X | X | X | | | | |
| Neef, (Chemistry) | | X | | X | X | | | | |
| Pennington, (Automotive Tech) | X | X | X | | X | | | | |
| Philipp, (Construction) | X | X | X | X | X | | | | |
| Rojas, (English & Modern Language) | X | X | X | X | X | | | | |
| Runyan, (At-Large) | | X | X | | X | | | | |
| Schiefelbein, (At-Large) | X | X | | | | | | | |
| Shay, (Military Science) | | | | | | | | | |
| Siam, (At-Large) | X | X | X | X | X | | | | |
| Spera, (Psychology & Counseling) | | X | X | X | X | | | | |
| Tseng, (Art) | | X | | | X | | | | |
| Whitney, (Biology) | X | X | X | X | | | | | |
| Wilson, (History, Philosophy & Social Sciences) | X | X | X | X | X | | | | |
| Yarick, (Undergrad Kelce) | X | | X | X | | | | | |
| Zepernick, (At-Large) | X | X | | | X | | | | |
| University Support Staff Senate Representative | | | | | | | | | |
| Unclassified Professional Senate Representative | | X | | | X | | | | |
| Student Government Representative | | | | | X | | | | |
| Student | | | | | | | | | |
| Student | | | | | | | | | |

*Substitutes: 10/26/20 Hilary Gorman for Kristi Frisbee, 12/7/20 Rion Huffman for Andrea McConnaughey, 1/25/21 Shelly Martin for M Daczewitz, Karen Johnson for K Frisbee, & Rion Huffman for A McConnaughey