

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

October 28, 2019

The Pittsburg State University Faculty Senate met at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, October 28, 2019 in the Sunflower Room of the Overman Student Center with Kevin Bracker, President, presiding.

Past Minutes

Minutes from the September 23, 2019 meeting were approved.

Announcements

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

Dr. Smith shared that the work with the RPK Group is progressing. The most recent discussions have focused on developing a market analysis including a detailed look at our competitors. In addition to evaluating academic programs, our academic support structures will also be examined. This phase of the project should be concluding in December. Dr. Smith also noted that a couple of accrediting agencies are on campus this week meeting with Engineering Technology and Nursing. The Secretary of Labor is also on campus today and will be meeting with a group of students. Lastly, the Kansas Board of Regents will hold their November meeting on campus. The dates are November 20th and 21st. Faculty are encouraged to attend the open forum on the 21st at 3pm at the KTC.

PSU/KNEA – Grant Moss, President

Dr. Moss encouraged faculty to check their October 18th paycheck for back pay and the 2.5% raise. Contact HR with any questions. This year KNEA will be negotiating the entire contract. Dr. Moss will be forming focus groups in November. If you would like to serve/participate, please contact Dr. Moss. The negotiating team has been created. Dr. Moss also clarified that with the exception of his PSU/KNEA report, he is serving as an at large member of Faculty Senate.

Student Senate – Alexis Houser, Representative

Ms. Houser reported that SGA has created a new director position focusing on diversity and inclusion. In addition, SGA is doing a constitutional review and is finishing up their student allocation process. Lastly, SGA celebrated their 100th anniversary at Homecoming.

Unclassified Professional Senate – Brad Stefanoni, President

No report.

University Support Staff – Terry Pierce, President

No report.

Faculty Senate President – Kevin Bracker, President

Dr. Bracker visited with Doug Ball and a couple of other faculty members recently about the state of the budget and opportunities and challenges from a budget standpoint. Additional notes from that meeting can be found in the agenda; however the following were highlighted:

- HVAC and plumbing issues continue to need attention.
- Declining enrollment has impacted the budget; demographic trends are being felt nationwide, not just at Pitt State.
- The strategic visioning project could open doors to new opportunities (increased online program options, etc).
- Implementation of GUS Cloud was intense but GUS Cloud has made it easier to access records for audits, etc.
- The Professional MBA program could help to promote innovative thinking in program design.

Dr. Bracker also noted that applications may be submitted for the Good Apple Young Alumni award. Applications are due by November 17th. See agenda for additional details.

As a Regents update, Dr. Bracker also shared that the Regents would be on campus November 20th and 21st and that sessions would be available on November 21st for faculty. Specific times are to be determined. If faculty are not able to attend but would like to advance questions, they may send their questions to Dr. Bracker.

Committee Reports

Academic Affairs – Steve Cox, Chair

No report.

Undergraduate Curriculum – Nico Prelogar, Chair

Dr. Shewmake reported that the committee approved and recommends all curriculum items (see agenda).

The motion to approve the curriculum items passed unanimously.

Library Services/Learning Resources – Gail Yarick, Chair

No report.

Online and Distance Learning – Krissy Lewis, Chair

No report.

Academic Honors – Janice Jewett, Chair

Mr. Morris reported that the committee met on October 3rd and elected Janice Jewett as Chair and Cliff Morris as Recorder. Improving logistics was discussed. Sixty-five proposals were submitted. This number is comparable to past years.

Honors College – Rebeca Book, Chair

Dr. Bracker shared that the committee met on September 26th. The committee discussed the need to increase applications and diversity within the Honors College. They also discussed the option of requiring a portfolio or video as part of application. (This would not be added this year.) See agenda for full report.

Writing Across the Curriculum – Alex Binder, Chair

Dr. Binder reported that the committee advanced 41 Writing to Learn and Best Practices grant submissions to the Provost for approval.

Diversity and Multicultural Affairs – Jason Reid, Chair

Dr. Bracker reported that the committee discussed the survey on faculty diversity that was conducted last year. It was noted that the response rate was low (8%) and that it might be worth having the Deans or Provost send it out again this year. The committee decided to check into offering a diversity session through the CTLT and/or during the annual Professional Development day. A brown bag could also be offered through the Tilford Group. The committee also discussed NSSE data and how it could be used. The committee will continue to analyze the data and determine how it can be used beyond accreditation purposes. The next meeting is November 15th.

Student-Faculty – Daniel Maxwell, Chair

No report.

All University Committee – Jennifer Harris, Chair

No report.

Faculty Affairs – Andrea Kent-McConnaughey, Chair

Dr. Binder reported that just under \$44,000 has been allocated for faculty presentations (Priority 1). See agenda for additional details.

Constitution Committee – Mark Johnson, Chair

Dr. Johnson reported that the committee met to further discuss a policy for 1st and 2nd reading and recommended the following amendment:

Any University Wide Action item for the next Faculty Senate Meeting will be posted for a Standard Viewing period of 28 calendar days prior to the next Faculty Senate meeting. Actionable items must be submitted prior to the 28-day viewing

period, to the Registrar's Office. On the 28th Day, the Registrar's Office will post these on the Faculty Senate website. (See agenda for additional details.)

Motion to approve was seconded; discussion followed.

Dr. Moss noticed that many of the posting dates correspond to the Faculty Senate meetings and wondered if the 1st reading should just be done at the Faculty Senate meeting and then the 2nd reading and vote happens at the next Faculty Senate meeting. The recommendation may complicate the process. Dr. Binder noted that the idea from the committee was that the 28 day online posting would allow enough time for senators to discuss the item with their departments. Mr. Kehle noted that this recommendation would eliminate any discussion at Faculty Senate during the 1st reading. Mr. Cooper asked that if we can table a vote if additional concerns were raised at the 2nd reading, would this resolve the issue. Dr. Jayawardhana suggested that items be presented first for a 10-day viewing period prior to the 1st reading. The 2nd reading would be at the meeting after the meeting where the 1st reading took place. It was then suggested that the timeline follow that for posting items to the agenda (7 days).

Dr. Jayawardhana proposed to change the amendment. After much discussion, the following was proposed:

Any item that requires a Faculty Senate vote must be submitted to the Faculty Senate President seven calendar days prior to the next Faculty Senate meeting in order to be posted in the agenda. This will be followed by a first reading at the Faculty Senate meeting, with the second reading and vote at the subsequent Faculty Senate meeting.

(Curriculum committee excluded.)

The motion to change the amendment passed.

The motion to approve the recommendation as amended passed.

While discussing the new amendment, there was discussion about procedures for approving Pitt State Pathway courses. If the course is an existing course it is thought that it would only need to be vetted by the Pitt State Pathway committee. If the course is a new course, it would need to go to the curriculum committee first to be approved as a new course and then to the Pitt State Pathway committee. Some believe this may be happening in the reverse. Mr. Kehle suggested that the Constitution committee review the charge to the Pitt State Pathway Committee to clarify if and when courses need to go to the Curriculum committee.

Pitt State Pathway Committee – Michelle Hudiburg, Chair

Dr. Hudiburg shared that the committee approved four out of five courses for the Pathway. One course was sent back to the College of Technology for clarification. Dr. Hudiburg also provided a debrief on the visit from the NILOA coach. The conversation focused on the Gorilla Gateway course and how to: 1) possibly alleviate the need to cover 9 elements, 2) incorporate the elements throughout the Pathway and use Gorilla Gateway as an introduction to topics and 3) determine if the Gorilla Gateway course and the Pathway program overall meeting the expectations of stakeholders.

Budget Committee – Linden Dalecki, Chair

No Report.

Academic Honesty – Cole Shewmake, Chair

Dr. Shewmake reported that three maxient reports were submitted for tracking purposes only.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Dr. Moss suggested the Budget Committee research how the funds that were restored from the State are being used in the budget.

Open Forum

Mr. Kehle announced the Webb City Band would be hosting tonight at 6:30pm a spaghetti and jazz event.

Mr. Cox provided a reminder about the DeGruson Lecture tomorrow evening at 7:00pm. Casie Hermansson is the speaker.

Dr. Carlson noted that there is a need for Fulbright Specialist who can assist in a number of areas including assessment and technology. Fulbright Specialist are sent overseas for several weeks. Check out their website if interested.

Meeting Adjourned Motion to adjourn was approved at 4:05 p.m.



Melinda Roelfs, Recording Secretary