

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

December 9, 2019

The Pittsburg State University Faculty Senate met at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, December 9, 2019 in the Sunflower Room of the Overman Student Center with Kevin Bracker, President, presiding.

Past Minutes

Minutes from the November 25, 2019 meeting were approved.

Announcements

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

Dr. Smith shared that RPK group would be on campus Wednesday and Thursday to share what they have discovered from doing a market analysis and a review of our academic support structures. After the final report is presented at the meetings later this week, the report will be posted to the CANVAS project site. In addition, from a system-wide standpoint, Emporia State and Fort Hays State both have a task force looking at serving alcohol at football games. Lastly, there has been some discussion regarding moving Fall Break to the Monday and Tuesday of Thanksgiving Break. Other campuses are doing this in addition to some of the local school districts. Expect to hear more discussion on this in the future.

PSU/KNEA – Grant Moss, President

Dr. Moss reported that there have been some focus groups the last couple weeks. If you haven't had a chance to participate, you can email Dr. Moss or Tim Thomas any concerns or questions you may have. There is also a Promotion and Tenure dossier committee looking at how to provide a better and more consistent document for those who are going up for promotion or tenure. Lastly, there will be a Higher Ed symposium sponsored by Kansas KNEA held on January 10-11, 2020 in Topeka. This is the first time that folks have gathered state-wide to discuss issues.

Student Senate – Alexis Houser, Representative

No report.

Unclassified Professional Senate – Brad Stefanoni, President

No report.

University Support Staff – Terry Pierce, President

Mr. Pierce reported that they had a successful visit with KBOR in October.

Faculty Senate President – Kevin Bracker, President

Dr. Bracker reported that ITS hosted a student information system demo by Unifyed on December 4th. In general, there were mixed reactions from those who attended. The demo was the result of being a finalist for a grant to help fund a new SIS. Folks associated with the grant suggested that we look at Unifyed as a possible option. There has not yet been a commitment to purchase a new system. This was just a demo. This is not a replacement for CANVAS instead a replacement for some of the functions you might find in GUS Classic. There was a question regarding how much of the cost the grant would cover, but Dr. Bracker did not have that information. Dr. Smith did share that the Admission office did receive a grant to cover the cost of a new CRM system, but it was just for that piece of the system.

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 (several new courses – see agenda).

The motion to approve the curriculum items passed unanimously.

One concern discussed by the committee was a lack of detail provided on the forms for new courses. The committee asks that folks keep this in mind when completing the forms.

Library Services/Learning Resources – Gail Yarick, Chair

No report.

Online and Distance Learning – Krissy Lewis, Chair

Dr. Bracker reported that the committee met on December 6th to discuss implementation of a list of action items – see agenda.

Academic Honors – Janice Jewett, Chair

No report.

Honors College – Rebeca Book, Chair

Dr. Book shared that there are additional ways of submitting the application now: 1) online, 2) upload or 3) regular mail. The committee also discussed the selection process, new essay prompts and additional interview questions. More information will be shared at the next meeting.

Writing Across the Curriculum – Alex Binder, Chair

No report.

Diversity and Multicultural Affairs – Jason Reid, Chair

No report.

Student-Faculty – Daniel Maxwell, Chair

No report.

All University Committee – Jennifer Harris, Chair

No report.

Faculty Affairs – Andrea Kent-McConnaughey, Chair

No report.

Constitution Committee – Mark Johnson, Chair

No report.

Pitt State Pathway Committee – Michelle Hudiburg, Chair

Dr. Hudiburg reported that the committee reviewed three new courses for the Pitt State Pathway and recommends adding all three courses (GT 210, PHIL 206 and HIST 207).

The motion to approve all courses passed.

Budget Committee – Linden Dalecki, Chair

No Report. Dr. Bracker did note that Mr. Dalecki has spoken to the CFO about providing a report at the January meeting regarding how additional appropriations are being spent.

Academic Honesty – Cole Shewmake, Chair

No report.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

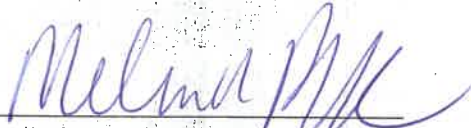
Susan Carlson asked about the recent talk about online programs and what's driving it. Dr. Bracker shared that he feels the number of online classes has increased dramatically, especially in the summer. Fewer face-to-face courses are being offered in the summer. The Professional MBA program is fairly new but already has around 200 students enrolled, indicating an increased demand for online. Dr. Smith also agreed that the demand for online is increasing due to students' needs for convenience. Some still believe that a face-to-face course provides a more effective learning environment and worry about the move to online. Effectiveness also varies from student to student.

Dr. Jayawarhana asked about the success of our Honors College students as compared to other students once they graduate from Pittsburg State and if they are tracked as a separate group. Dr. Johnson doesn't think that tracking is being done to this level. The same is likely true of our international students. Career Services does work to track employment but it's difficult. Much of the data is self-reported. Dr. Book is going to check on the availability of data.

Open Forum

Dr. Jayawardhana invited all faculty to commencement on Friday, December 13th. Dr. Bracker also encouraged faculty to attend. Dr. Moss mentioned that KNEA will have happy hour tomorrow evening at 5th Street Bar and Grill.

Meeting Adjourned Motion to adjourn was approved at 3:25 p.m.



Melinda Roelfs, Recording Secretary