

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

February 22, 2021

The Pittsburg State University Faculty Senate met at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, February 22, 2021, with Cole Shewmake, President, presiding.

Past Minutes

Minutes from the January 25, 2021 meeting were approved.

Guest Speakers

Dr. Shewmake introduced guest speaker, Noah Larson with SGA to discuss the Autism Accommodations Program proposal being created. Mr. Larson shared that the Autism Accommodations Program would be a program that students enroll in in addition to being enrolled at PSU. Students in the program would receive assistance in navigating campus life and career assistance once they graduate. Ideally, in some cases, an intern (likely graduate level) would be assigned to a student. The program would include an additional cost to students. The cost is still being considered. Funding would go to providing services to students and providing training to faculty and staff. The hope is that scholarships would be developed to help families with covering the additional costs. Mr. Larson noted that high school counselors would be contacted to help identify possible candidates for the program.

Dr. Runyan motioned that Faculty Senate officially pledge its support of the process taking place to create the Autism Accommodations Program. The motion passed.

Dr. Shewmake introduced the second guest speaker, Scott Donaldson, Director of Admission. Mr. Donaldson shared the new recruitment materials being used by the office. When a student inquires, he/she receives a general split-face brochure that includes information inserts such as costs and financial aid. Academic departments are also encouraged to develop a departmental insert for students who express an interest in their majors. Once a student is admitted, he/she receives a large split-face envelope with an admission letter, certificate, magnet and license plate. Pitt State yard signs are also being delivered to students who register for Pitt CARES. Mr. Donaldson also reported that undergraduate students can now apply without paying an application fee. They have seen an increase in applications since making this change. Currently, housing numbers are down slightly, but CARES registrations are up by 6%. Lastly, Mr. Donaldson mentioned that departments have access through GUS to download a list of students who have been admitted with a major in the department. Mostly admins and some chairs have access to the list in GUS. The Admission office is implementing a new CRM and the hope is that faculty will have access to student inquiries through the new system. Members of Faculty Senate expressed their support for efforts and shared how important it is to make local students feel special. Mr. Donaldson noted that last year they created a scholarship for Crawford county students.

Announcements

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

Dr. Smith thanked Scott Donaldson for sharing Admission activities with Faculty Senate and also thanked Kathleen Flannery and the PSU Foundation for providing support for recruitment activities. Dr. Smith shared that the PSU low enrollment report was presented to BAASC. Two programs, Interior Design and Music Performance, drew additional questions from Board members. Interior Design has seen improved enrollment numbers and Music supports PSU's mission and the larger community; however, both programs have a negative Return on Investment. Return on Investment is becoming more of an emphasis at the Board level. The low enrollment report will be presented to the full board in March. Dr. Smith also reported that the Governor's Budget calls for a 5.5% reduction to the universities yet \$10 million to the Regents. This amount was based on a mandatory 2.5% salary increase for state employees. The Board, however, voted to use the \$10 million for deferred maintenance.

In addition, Dr. Smith shared that a survey on Fall Break being moved to Thanksgiving was released recently. Results should be available next week. Also, the University Scholarship Committee is meeting to discuss the option of stackable scholarships and what might be the tipping point for prospective students.

PSU/KNEA –Khamis Siam, President

See video from the General Faculty meeting on February 15, 2021.

Student Senate – Bella L’Heureux, Representative
No report.

Unclassified Professional Senate – Jason Kegler, President
No report.

University Support Staff – Terri Blessent, President
No report.

Faculty Senate President – Cole Shewmake, President

Dr. Shewmake reported that the Statement against the Temporary Policy for COVID Related Reductions in Force from the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents (in agenda) has been endorsed by KNEA. Dr. Shewmake reminded Faculty Senate that Apple Day is scheduled for March 1st. Instead of apples, the plan is to pass out stress ball apples to students. Stress balls will be handed out in the Student Center, Oval, KTC and Rec Center. He is still looking for a few volunteers. Lastly, Dr. Shewmake shared that the amendment to the constitution passed and that chairs have been reminded the department elections need to be completed by March 12, 2021.

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. Dr. Conrad noted that two courses on the legislation for the Sustainability minor were identified incorrectly: 1) WGS 512 should be SOC 512 and 2) WGS 663 should be SOC 663.

All curriculum items recommended by the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee were approved with corrections.

Library Services/Learning Resources – Stella Hasting, Chair
No report.

Online and Distance Learning – Krissy Lewis, Chair
No report.

Academic Honors – John Daley, Chair
See agenda for report.

Honors College – Michael Davidsson, Chair
No report.

Writing Across the Curriculum – Laura Covert-Miller, Chair
See agenda for 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

Dr. Shewmake reported that he received an email from Kathleen Flannery noting that they intend to go back to contributing \$100,000 to Professional Development post-pandemic. Dr. Larery is working on the request letter to send to Ms. Flannery.

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
Dr. Hendershot noted that one Maxient report has been submitted for tracking purposes only.

Unfinished Business

A general faculty meeting was held on February 15, 2021. Under new business was a proposed amendment to the constitution. The general faculty voted to approve the constitutional amendment below:

Article III.E. "The election committee shall consist of three or more Faculty Senate members, two of whom are the Faculty Senate President and President-elect. The President shall appoint other member(s) of the election committee before the last day of March. The group shall solicit nominations from the newly elected members of the Senate and those members with one year remaining in their terms for the following year's Faculty Senate Executive Committee. The new Faculty Senate shall vote for officers (Article II.B.) and for five additional members, at least one from each college, who shall make up the next Executive Committee. The vote shall take place during the April meeting of the new Faculty Senate."

New Business

Dr. Shewmake stated again that the Statement against the Temporary Policy for COVID Related Reductions in Force from the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents has been endorsed by KNEA.

Open Forum

None.

Meeting Adjourned Meeting adjourned Monday, February 22, 2021 at 4:07 p.m.



Melinda Roelfs, Recording Secretary