

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

February 24, 2020

The Pittsburg State University Faculty Senate met at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, February 24, 2020 in the Sunflower Room of the Overman Student Center with Kevin Bracker, President, presiding.

Past Minutes

Minutes from the January 27, 2020 meeting were approved.

Announcements

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

Dr. Smith reported that the system Provosts met recently with the KBOR. Discussion topics included improving transfer from community colleges to the universities and reviewing strategic alignment of programs even across institutions (minima numbers for all six universities were shared). In addition, the House has recommended including salary dollars for the Regents institution in the budget, although the dollars were not included in the Governor's budget. Lastly, all of the RPK groups will be convening including the prototype teams from Phase I. Academic support services are being examined in addition to academic colleges/departments as retirements have been announced by Dr. Kahol and Dr. Frieden. Dr. Smith will report to the KBOR in April our progress with the strategic visioning process. The process requires a cultural shift in the way minima, sustainability and budgets are viewed and managed.

PSU/KNEA – Grant Moss, President

Dr. Moss reported that negotiations are continuing. Questions can be directed to Tim Thomas or Dr. Moss. An executive meeting is scheduled for March 10th and a chapter meeting is scheduled for April 14th.

Student Senate – Alexis Houser, Representative

No report.

Unclassified Professional Senate – Brad Stefanoni, President

No report.

University Support Staff – Terry Pierce, President

No report.

Faculty Senate President – Kevin Bracker, President

Dr. Bracker reported that Apple Day is on Monday, March 2 and they are still taking volunteers to handout apples. In addition, one of the Presidents from the KBOR Faculty Senate Council of Presidents introduced a Freedom of Expression resolution for adoption, but it was voted down. Many expressed is was not developed enough for adoption.

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

Ms. Yarick shared that the committee met with Randy Roberts on January 31st. Please see the agenda for details on that meeting including information on how the library is supporting the Gorilla Gateway course and a list of upcoming events.

Online and Distance Learning – Krissy Lewis, Chair

Dr. Bracker reported that the committee met on February 11th to discuss: 1) a Pitt State online landing page and 2) hosting an event for online and distance learning for faculty and support staff. See agenda for more details.

Academic Honors – Janice Jewett, Chair

Mr. Morris shared that applications for academic honors are being reviewed and students will hear back from the Registrar's Office the week of February 17th. There were a total of 59 applications. The breakdown by college is noted in the agenda.

Honors College – Rebeca Book, Chair

Dr. Book reported that the Honors College selections have been completed and students have been asked to confirm attendance by March 1st. See the agenda for additional details.

Writing Across the Curriculum – Alex Binder, Chair

Dr. Binder reported that 36 applications were received and those are being reviewed now.

Diversity and Multicultural Affairs – Jason Reid, Chair

Dr. Bracker shared that the committee met on February 14th. They are working on the survey questions for HLC accreditation. See agenda for additional details.

Student-Faculty – Daniel Maxwell, Chair

Dr. Maxwell reported that the committee met on February 10th to review committee bylaws, discuss W/F policy on late withdraw, clarified the calendar to match policy on late withdraw and reviewed dead week policy. See agenda for full minutes from the meeting.

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 met with Heather Eckstein and Dr. Smith regarding concerns with Gorilla Gateway. There has been discussion about moving elements out of Gorilla Gateway to make the course more manageable. (Currently there are nine PSP elements required in Gorilla Gateway.)

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. Zapernick asked if a cost benefit analysis had been done recently with the Honors College considering the amount of scholarship dollars budgeted for the program. Is it possible that more of an impact could be made by allocating some of those dollars for scholarships in "flagship" programs or programs targeted for growth? This was mentioned in a previous meeting as well. One of the challenges is some benefits cannot be quantified. Dr. Bracker thinks the Honors College committee would be the group to work on this project. Dr. Smith mentioned that he has some data that can be shared with the committee.

Open Forum

Mr. Kehle noted that March 6th is the 46th Annual Jazz Festival. There will be around 1,300 students involved. Dr. Cooper shared that Silent Sky will be held at the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts in the little theatre Thursday through Sunday. The performance is free. Dr. Huffman shared that Graphics and Imaging is taking submissions for the Crimson Creative Award. The competition is open to all students. Please encourage students to apply. The submission process will be open for a month.

Meeting Adjourned Motion to adjourn was approved at 3:33 p.m.


Melinda Roelfs, Recording Secretary