

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

March 29, 2021

The Pittsburg State University Faculty Senate met at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, March 29, 2021, with Cole Shewmake, President, presiding.

Past Minutes

Minutes from the February 22, 2021 meeting were approved.

Guest Speakers

Dr. Shewmake introduced guest speaker, Doug Ball. Mr. Ball started by sharing that our budget is on track for this year and planning for next year's budget has started. Mr. Ball noted what we know at this point: 1) state revenue is still below 2008 levels but we've made a little progress and 2) tuition revenue had shown some improvement until the pandemic. Mr. Ball also discussed the items that drive the budget: 1) state funding, currently the Governor's budget includes a \$2 million reduction; however, the legislature has expressed a potential for improvement, 2) enrollment, enrollment is hard to predict, especially now, 3) tuition rates, the tuition committee is currently working on PSU's proposal; a 1% increase raises \$320,000, 4) benefits/insurance/utilities, we are expecting an increase in expenses of \$500,000, and 5) COVID recovery, expenses have been covered to date and are expected to be covered for FY 22. The need for spending cuts will be determined by these factors. Net reduction could be between \$1 to 4 million. Mr. Ball stated that the auxiliary services are not factored into the budget; overall, they are also experiencing lower revenues. Lastly, Mr. Ball said that the new stimulus package will be significant to states and cities and should include some flexibility for campuses. The details, however, are not yet known.

Announcements

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

Dr. Smith thanked Doug Ball for addressing the budget. Pitt State could be looking at a deficit of \$1 to 4 million. Academic Affairs makes up 60-70% of the budget. Dr. Smith noted that it's hard to project enrollment based on traditional metrics due to the pandemic. College fairs, high school visits and campus visits are happening differently now. Pitt CARES numbers are slightly down from last year. There have been questions recently about course delivery for fall. Dr. Smith stressed that for now we are staying the course but will continue to monitor the situation for possible changes. Dr. Smith shared that the PSU low enrollment report was presented to KBOR and went well. After the low enrollment reports, KBOR discussed the idea of campuses prioritizing programs. There is a focus now on cost efficiency not just enrollment. Lastly, Dr. Smith noted that many are asking why more resources are needed when enrollments are down.

PSU/KNEA –Khamis Siam, President

Dr. Siam shared that there were six grievances filed during performance appraisal. All but two have been resolved. KNEA's top discussion items during negotiations include: 1) promotion and tenure, 2) salaries, 3) teaching load, 4) grade submission timeline and 5) alignment of Activity Insight with the contract. Administration's top discussion items are 1) prorating summer contracts based on enrollment, 2) ensuring applicants for exceptional rating go through Activity Insight and 3) resolving editorial issues in contract. Questions should be directed to Tim Thomas, head negotiator for KNEA.

Student Senate – Bella L'Heureux, Representative

Ms. L'Heureux reported that SGA received fewer than 10 submissions for the Student of the Semester last semester. Ms. L'Heureux encouraged faculty to nominate students for this semester. The deadline is this Friday. Based on positive results from a survey done recently, SGA has made menstrual products available on campus in the Student Recreation Center, Axe Library and Overman Student Center. On April 2nd applications will open for the Big Event scheduled for April 17th. Lastly, Ms. L'Heureux shared that Student Senate is opposing Senate Bill 208 which would prohibit transgender women from competing in female sports. There is a meeting planned with Governor Kelly with several Student Senate members.

Unclassified Professional Senate – Jason Kegler, President
No report.

University Support Staff – Terri Blessent, President
Dr. Shewmake reported that the committee is working on a satisfaction survey with the other Regents schools for 2022.

Faculty Senate President – Cole Shewmake, President
Dr. Shewmake reported that the Free Expression statement currently going through KBOR is in today's Faculty Senate agenda. The statement addresses students not faculty and staff. Other KBOR news includes the following updates: 1) the statewide general education working group is ongoing; Daniel Archer will provide an update at the next KBOR meeting and 2) a new business model is being considered for the University Press. Dr. Shewmake noted that there are still discussions taking place about creating a repository for minutes from Faculty Senate committees to help with leadership transitions. In addition, Dr. Shewmake shared that the election committee has been formed for the Executive committee. Individuals should be hearing from Dr. Hendershot regarding nominations. Lastly, Dr. Shewmake commented that we need to move the May Faculty Senate meeting to May 3rd due to moving Spring Break to the end of the semester. The 10-day viewing period will be shortened – there were no objections to this. The meeting will take place in the Miller Theater in the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts.

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 recommended all curriculum items on the agenda.

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

Library Services/Learning Resources – Stella Hasting, Chair
Dr. Yarick noted that the committee met on March 22nd; Randy Roberts provided an update. The 2nd floor of Axe Library will be off-line all summer. Patrons will need to use intra-library loan for books typically available on the 2nd floor.

Online and Distance Learning – Krissy Lewis, Chair
See agenda for report.

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

Honors College – Michael Davidsson, Chair
See agenda for report.

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

Diversity and Multicultural Affairs – Jessica Jorgenson-Borchert, Chair
See agenda for report.

Student-Faculty – Gail Yarick, Chair
No report.

All University Committee – Tatiana Goris, Chair
No report.

Faculty Affairs – Trina Larery, Chair

Dr. Smith noted that the request has been made to Advancement to provide \$100,000 for professional development/travel. In addition, Dr. Smith shared that it is unlikely that COVID funds will be available to backfill any lost deposits for conferences that may be cancelled due to the pandemic. The departments need to be prepared to cover deposits in the event of cancellations.

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

None.

New Business


Dr. Shewmake shared that the KBOR agenda item on the Free Expression Statement is included in today's Faculty Senate agenda. There were no questions.

Open Forum

Mr. Huffman shared that submissions are currently being accepted for the Crimson Creative Awards. This contest is open to all students, not just those in Graphics and Imaging Technologies. There are eleven different categories. Some winners do receive scholarships. The submission deadline is April 9th. An event will be held to recognize winners on April 22nd. Please contact Mr. Huffman if you have any questions. Mr. Kehle announced that there will be a limited seating jazz concert on April 12th at 7:30pm. Contact Mr. Kehle for ticket information. Dr. Zepernick announced that they are offering a 12-week writing book camp this summer. Please contact Dr. Zepernick for details.

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned Monday, March 29, 2021 at 4:03 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	X	X		
Bracker, (Past President)	X		X	X	X	X	X		
Bailey, (At-Large)	X			X	X	X	X		
Binder, (Undergrad Kelce)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Butler, (Physics)									
Carlson, (English & Modern Language)	X	X				X	X		
Coltharp, (Mathematics)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Conrad, (Women's Studies)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Coomes, (Nursing)	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Cox, (Library)	X	X	X		X	X			
Cronister, (Family & Consumer Science)		X	X		X	X	X		
Daczewitz, (Teaching & Leadership)					*	*	*		
Drew, (Communication)		X				X			
Frisbee, (Nursing)	X	*		X	*	*	*		
Goedeke, (At-Large)		X			X		X		
Goris, (At-Large)	X								
Hendershot, (At-Large)	X	X		X	X	X	X		
Hermansson, (At-Large)	X	X	X		X	X	X		
Hite, (At-Large)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Jones, (TWL)		X	X	X	X	X	X		
Jorgenson-Borchert, (At-Large)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Kehle, (Music)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Lawson, (History, Philosophy & Social Science)	X	X	X	X		X	X		
Maxwell, (Engineering)		X	X	X	X	X	X		
McConnaughey, (Graphics)				*	*	X			
Moss, (At-Large)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Neef, (Chemistry)		X		X	X	X	X		
Pennington, (Automotive Tech)	X	X	X		X	X			
Philipp, (Construction)	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Rojas, (English & Modern Language)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Runyan, (At-Large)		X	X		X	X	X		
Schiefelbein, (At-Large)	X	X					X		
Shay, (Military Science)									
Siam, (At-Large)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Spera, (Psychology & Counseling)		X	X	X	X		X		
Tseng, (Art)		X			X	X	X		
Whitney, (Biology)	X	X	X	X		X	X		
Wilson, (History, Philosophy & Social Sciences)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Yarick, (Undergrad Kelce)	X		X	X		X	X		
Zepernick, (At-Large)	X	X			X	X	X		
University Support Staff Senate Representative									
Unclassified Professional Senate Representative		X			X	X			
Student Government Representative					X		X		
Student									
Student									

*Substitutes: 10/26/20 Hilary Gorman for Kristi Frisbee, 12/7/20 Rion Huffman for A McConnaughey, 1/25/21 Shelly Martin for M Daczewitz, Karen Johnson for K Frisbee, & Rion Huffman for A McConnaughey, 2/22/21 Shelly Martin for M Daczewitz, Karen Johnson for K Frisbee, Rion Huffman, 3/29/21 Shelly Martin for M Daczewitz, Karen Johnson for K Frisbee, Rion Huffman for A McConnaughey

