

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
March 30, 2020

The Pittsburg State University Faculty Senate met via CANVAS at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, March 30, 2020, with Kevin Bracker, President, presiding.

Past Minutes

Minutes from the February 24, 2020 meeting were approved.

Announcements

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

Dr. Smith started by thanking everyone for adapting their work because of the COVID 19 pandemic. Academic Affairs is responding to immediate needs as well as considering the future. He noted that communication is key so work with your units on sharing thoughts and posing questions. Be sure to check often the PSU webpage for COVID 19 updates. Also, check your email frequently as daily updates will be sent. Other items being discussed include dead week, finals, student evaluations, incompletes and expanded pass/fail grading. The KNEA contract does have a provision which allows for extensions of up to 1 year due to extenuating circumstances. Summer school at this point is anticipated to have minimal changes as most classes are already online. Dr. Smith also noted the groups he is meeting with regularly: President's Council and Critical Incident and Crisis Response Management, College Deans, Faculty Senate and KNEA Presidents, SGA President and Academic Affairs Leadership. Dr. Smith concluded with one of his favorite quotes: "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." MLK

PSU/KNEA – Grant Moss, President

Dr. Moss reported that negotiations are continuing. However, due to the COVID 19 situation, it has initially been agreed to implement a one-year agreement for academic year 20-21. The one-year agreement includes: (1) accepts the topics discussed, (2) funds for summer 2020 at SU 19 level, (3) sets a time to finalize agreement with salary negotiations and (4) agrees to open negotiations for three-year agreement beginning WF 2020. KNEA will present the agreement, after salary negotiations, for a ratification vote. The KNEA Annual Chapter Meeting is scheduled for April 14th from 3:45-4:55pm and will be held electronically. If you would like to nominate a member to a position for next year, please send their name to Susan Carlson and Alicia Mason. Open positions for 2020-2021 are: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, KNEA-RA Delegates (4), NEA-RA Delegate (1), Bargaining Council Members (7), Membership Committee Members (3), and Grievance Committee Member (1).

Student Senate – Alexis Houser, Representative

Ms. Houser reported that SGA is postponing elections until the fall semester. The current senate and executive board will remain in their positions until elections are held. Student Government Association will be releasing online study tips and suggested questions for online enrollment.

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 on the transition from face-to-face to online/alternative delivery approach. The CTLT staff has done a great job helping with the transition. There are a lot of tools (VidGrid, Zoom, Canvas, etc.) to help us achieve our goals. Please report to Dr. Bracker any concerns/challenges or positive experiences that can then be shared with President Scott and Provost Smith. Dr. Bracker also noted that there is language in the KNEA contract that allows for extensions with tenure clocks of up to one year due to extenuating circumstances. In addition, there are discussions regarding student evaluations and only using them for feedback and not including them in tenure/performance evaluation unless requested by the faculty member. There is also discussion of the possibility of modifying the pass/fail grading

system for this semester. Please let Dr. Bracker know if you have thoughts on this. Dr. Bracker stressed the importance of communication during this time and thanked a number of groups both on campus and off. Lastly, Dr. Bracker announced the results of the At Large elections:

- Amy Hite – Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing
- Grant Moss – English and Modern Languages
- Mary Jo Goedeke – Kelce Undergrad College of Business
- Tatiana Goris – Technology and Workforce Learning
- Janet Zepernick – English and Modern Languages
- Tim Bailey – History, Philosophy, and Social Sciences
- Shawnee Hendershot – Family and Consumer Sciences
- Charles Kent Runyan – Teaching and Leadership
- Janis Schiefelbein – Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing
- Khamis Siam – Chemistry
- Casie Hermansson – English and Modern Languages
- Jessica Jorgenson Borchert – English and Modern Languages

Committee Reports

Academic Affairs – Steve Cox, Chair

No report.

Undergraduate Curriculum – Nico Prelogar, Chair

No report

Library Services/Learning Resources – Gail Yarick, Chair

No report.

Online and Distance Learning – Krissy Lewis, Chair

Dr. Lewis reported that the committee met on Thursday, March 12th and discussed planning an online teaching forum to be held in April. The purpose of the forum is to bring online teachers together to share resources as well as answer questions that faculty may have about teaching online. In addition, they discussed gathering feedback and questions regarding online learning through a survey format with CTLT, but decided to pause the data collection due to the fact that we were unsure about the direction the University was going to take regarding moving classes online. The committee will revisit the topic in April, and will work with CTLT as needed through this time to help faculty navigate online and distance learning. Faculty are encouraged to join the Faculty Resource course in CANVAS to help with transitioning face-to-face courses to online/alternative delivery.

Academic Honors – Janice Jewett, Chair

Dr. Jewett reported that the committee notified faculty and students via email of the following changes to academic honors projects: “Academic Honors Projects already approved and scheduled to be completed this semester may need to be presented in a different format and/or modified due to the fact that classes are not meeting face-to-face and all campus events are cancelled for the remainder of the semester. For example, those projects that required an oral presentation may need to be presented in a different format either through a video presentation or a research paper. In such cases, the committee advises students to contact their Academic Honors Professor as soon as possible to determine if any changes to the approved plan are necessary and, if so, to discuss the best alternative for their project. As long as the Academic Honors Professor approves of the changes in format and delivery, then no other approvals for the change will be necessary and the student may proceed as planned.”

Honors College – Rebeca Book, Chair

No report.

Writing Across the Curriculum – Alex Binder, Chair

No report.

Diversity and Multicultural Affairs – Jason Reid, Chair

Mr. Reid stated that the committee chose seven questions for the survey that will help support the upcoming HLC accreditation and the questions have been sent to Gregor Kalan to create the survey for approval by the committee. The next steps will be to get approval of the survey link, decide on which office the survey should be sent from, send survey to faculty and collect data and send to appropriate offices. Dr. Moss suggested that the survey be sent by Faculty Senate since it was commissioned by the faculty, senator or the committee.

Student-Faculty – Daniel Maxwell, Chair

No report.

All University Committee – Jennifer Harris, Chair

No report.

Faculty Affairs – Andrea Kent-McConnaughey, Chair

Ms. Kent-McConnaughey noted that \$59,904.30 has been awarded to date. The committee strongly encourages any faculty member that had eligible travel for the 2019-2020 academic year that has yet to submit for funding for Priority 1 and 2's to do so. The committee has done the following this year to maximize the use of funds: 1) Approval of appropriate priority 2 applications received to date - funding is already being released for these applications, 2) Non-tenured faculty eligible for approval for Priority 1a funding with appropriate application, 3) Approval of continued funding in the event a travel event was canceled and costs cannot be recovered as verified by the business office and 4) Allowing any faculty funding an additional Priority 2 award with money left over even if they received the max allotment for a Priority 1 application.

In addition, in the event that there are funds left over given the COVID 19 situation, the committee would like to send to the Foundation pending approval by Faculty Senate a letter requesting either A) Remaining funds roll to next year for use along with a new allotment of \$100,000 or B) Remaining funds can be used to reimburse faculty that incurred costs in obtaining/maintaining certifications during 2019-2020.

It was motioned and approved to fast track voting on the letter to the Foundation considering the extenuating circumstances.

The letter to be sent to the Foundation was approved.

Constitution Committee – Mark Johnson, Chair

No report.

Pitt State Pathway Committee – Michelle Hudiburg, Chair

Dr. Hudiburg reported that the committee met on March 10th with a group of current Gorilla Gateway instructors to determine direction for future iterations of the course, as directed by the Provost. After a productive discussion, the committee was tasked with comparing elements specifically assigned to the Gateway course to elements in other Pathway areas. Any overlap and repetition was to be noted, and the committee would come back together on the 17th to discuss findings. With the onset of COVID-19 operations, the meeting for March 17 was moved to an email meeting. Dr. Hudiburg will collect findings from the committee, compile them, and compose a possible recommendation that will be sent back to the committee. If needed, the committee will meet via Zoom the week following official university spring break. A recommendation for revision of Gorilla Gateway elements will be submitted to the full Senate, if needed, in time for a first reading at the April meeting.

Budget Committee – Linden Dalecki, Chair

No report.

Academic Honesty – Cole Shewmake, Chair

Dr. Shewmake reported that four Maxient reports were submitted for tracking purposes only.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

None.

Open Forum

None.

Meeting Adjourned Meeting adjourned Thursday, April 2, 2020 at 3:12 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melinda Roelfs', written over a horizontal line.

Melinda Roelfs, Recording Secretary