

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

April 27, 2020

The Pittsburg State University Faculty Senate met via CANVAS at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, April 27, 2020, with Kevin Bracker, President, presiding.

Past Minutes

Minutes from the March 30, 2020 meeting were approved.

Announcements

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

Dr. Smith started by expressing his appreciation for everyone's time and effort to redesign and deliver classes and for the work done on the Spring 2020 grading policy. Dr Smith also provided the following updates:

- This week a plan to create a plan will emerge for transitioning back to campus. One of the most difficult decisions will be when and that is contingent upon local, state and federal orders and guidelines. The plan will involve stakeholders including faculty, staff, students, & administrators from across campus. A Q&A file is being built so if you have questions/ideas/comments please email them to bferguson@pittstate.edu.
- Enrollment Week: initial numbers favorable with a slight increase for fall (Graduate #'s up, UG down)
- We hope to receive the CARES stimulus funds and be able to disburse to students soon.
- Please note the new process for faculty reappointment. First letters will be to the unit faculty and then continuing non-tenure letters will follow later if all goes well. Kristi in the President's Office will email only each faculty member individually and copy the Chair and Dean. Faculty are not being asked to sign and return these letters.
- A great resource to stay up with what is going on is the PSU webpage for COVID-19 at <https://www.pittstate.edu/office/health-services/coronavirus/index.html> (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)
- Please continue to watch for the Daily Updates from Marketing and Communication in your email.

PSU/KNEA –Grant Moss, President

Dr. Moss shared a reflection of his year as PSU-KNEA President. In addition, Dr. Moss reported that the Spring 2020 PSU-KNEA Chapter Meeting was held via Zoom on April 14th, 2020, 3:45-4:55. After the meeting there was a "conversational happy hour." The elections committee activated the ballot on April 15th. The voting period ended on Friday, April 24th. Dr. Moss will send a Bulk-e e-mail message with the results soon.

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 provided clarification for a few important points related to the P/F grading policy for Spring 2020 semester:

- Faculty enter grades as they would during any normal semester (ABCDF) based on their course policies stated in the syllabus for each course. The P/F adjustment is made in the Registrar's office for those students who have selected to take a class P/F. Students are not automatically given P/F grades, but have the option to select P/F for any specific class.

-Because of item #1, there is not a way to identify whether a student who took the class on a P/F basis received a specific grade (such as C or better) if they received a P. Therefore, it is essential that programs communicate to students their expectations BEFORE the May 8th deadline for selecting the P/F option. While it is not perfect as students can change majors, a clear statement from faculty/departments/colleges can go a long way in avoiding confusion.

-The May 8th deadline was the last day that could be allowed due to the time this takes on the overall system and the need to have grades for summer/intersession courses (we have classes that start as early as May 18th).

Dr. Bracker also shared the following updates from the Kansas Board of Regents:

-KBOR is requesting that universities closely monitor low-enrollment programs and evaluate programs for strategic alignment. Details can be found on the KBOR April agenda on pp. 45-54.

-KBOR is also encouraging a standardized articulation agreement for transferring associate degree hours into baccalaureate degree programs throughout the Kansas system.

-The process of evaluating how universities will be approaching the fall semester is currently being discussed at the Regents level among the universities. It would probably be worthwhile for faculty to carefully consider how they might design their fall courses to allow for maximum flexibility with respect to delivery method.

Lastly Dr. Bracker announced he is taking signups for committee volunteers for the next academic year. Please consider volunteering and encourage your colleagues to volunteer as well. The requirements of committees often require participants from across each college, so the more people willing to serve on any committee, the easier it is to fill out committees. Thank you to those who have already signed up. The signup sheet can be found at https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1a9qdYT_4FscvjG1lKReJxbuYvASMPm00JFKdddRNZw4/edit?usp=sharing (Links to an external site.)

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).

Questions were raised regarding the Applied Data Analytics courses/certificate and a possible partnership with Podium Education. Specifically, there was concern that the contract with Podium Education was not available for review, that the contract may conflict with the work being done with Academic Partnerships and that PSU faculty may not have an active role in developing the courses/certificate. It was reported back that a contract with Podium Education is still being worked on by Doug Ball. Nothing has been finalized. In addition, there is nothing in the contract with Academic Partnership that prohibits contracts with other companies. The two models are completely different and independent of each other. Lastly the courses would be taught by adjunct faculty vetted by PSU. They would be held to the same standards as PSU faculty. There were also questions regarding why PSU can't support this without the assistance of an outside company. It was mentioned the PSU does not have the resources currently to solely support the certificate and that Podium Education would be absorbing almost all of the risk.

It was motioned to decouple the data analytics certificate/courses from the rest of the curriculum legislation, but there was not a second.

All curriculum items were approved.

Library Services/Learning Resources – Gail Yarick, Chair

No report.

Online and Distance Learning – Krissy Lewis, Chair

Dr. Lewis encouraged on behalf of the committee faculty to join the Faculty Resource course in Canvas if they have not done so already. It contains information and tutorials on the many resources available for teaching online. If faculty have questions not addressed in the course, CTLT encourages them to contact their college support person (Jennifer Pursley for College of Arts and Sciences; Susan Dellasega for College of Business and College of Education; and

Mary Wehrman for College of Technology). Barbara Pope has also created a new site containing resources for remote working. (See agenda for instructions on joining the course and additional resources.)

Academic Honors – Janice Jewett, Chair

No Report.

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 shared that the committee created the Pittsburg State University Diversity Survey. On Tuesday April 29th, Dr. Bracker, sent the survey to faculty by email on behalf of the Diversity & Multicultural Affairs Committee. As of 3pm Apr 29th, 2020 the survey had 103 responses.

The results from the questions will be used to provide supporting documentation for Pittsburg State University's upcoming Higher Learning Commission Accreditation.

Student-Faculty – Daniel Maxwell, Chair

Dr. Maxwell reported that the committee met via discussion board and tele-conferencing over the last month to discuss a proposal from the Student Government Association regarding the Dead Week Policy. After discussion, the proposal was modified and approved. It was moved that the Faculty Senate adopt the attached resolution as the Pittsburg State University Dead Week Policy by changing the entry under Dead Week Policy in the Syllabus Supplement to a link to this document (similar to the USSA policy entry). The proposal clarifies some points of the one sentence policy currently listed in the syllabus supplement. For example, the term "major assignment" is defined. It also codifies the procedure to be used if a violation is reported. (See full policy in the agenda.)

It was discussed that some faculty do give exams the last day of class and the proposed policy would no longer allow that. This may be a concern. The second reading of the policy will take place at the May 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 along with Student Success Programs, developed a proposal to mitigate some of the concerns raised regarding the Gorilla Gateway course. (See the agenda for background details.) The proposal is to "hold" all 5 Information and Digital Literacy elements from the Pathway as assessed items for the Fall 2020 semester.

-These elements were chosen to be placed on active review because their content overlaps with many other Pathway elements, and would be better served in areas other than the Gateway.

-The Gorilla Gateway course syllabus will reflect that the elements will be in active review, and not assessed during the fall 2020 iteration of the course.

-This active review will give the Pitt Pathway committee and other university stakeholders time to determine the best way/place to assess the 5 Information and Digital Literacy elements.

-The idea of stepping back and evaluating our learning objectives aligns with the continuous improvement model encouraged by HLC

Budget Committee – Linden Dalecki, Chair
No report.

Academic Honesty – Cole Shewmake, Chair
No report.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

None.

Open Forum

None.

Meeting Adjourned Meeting adjourned Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at 3:10 p.m.


Melinda Roelfs, Recording Secretary