

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

September 28, 2020

The Pittsburg State University Faculty Senate met at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, September 28, 2020, with Cole Shewmake, President, presiding.

Past Minutes

Minutes from the May 11, 2020 meeting were approved.

Announcements

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

Dr. Smith started by thanking everyone for their efforts in adjusting course delivery and getting the semester started. He also shared that there are discussions on the moving spring break for the spring semester to the beginning or end of the semester. More information will be released soon. In addition, he noted that current interest items at KBOR include: 1) the development of a common general education package and 2) increasing the number of community college hours that can be applied towards a degree. Dr. Smith concluded with announcing that enrollment is down for the fall, but better than expected considering the current environment. Undergraduate numbers are slightly down and graduate numbers are slightly up.

PSU/KNEA – Khamis Siam, President

Dr. Siam reported that negotiations for the KNEA contract have been finalized. There will be no increases this year. Dr. Siam encouraged faculty to continue to share leave.

Student Senate – Bella L'Heureux, Representative

Ms. L'Heureux thanked everyone for their efforts this semester. She also noted that SGA allocation forms for organizations are currently available on Gorilla Engage.

Unclassified Professional Senate – Jason Kegler, President

No report.

University Support Staff – Terri Blessent, President

Ms. Blessent reported that the group just started meeting and they are looking forward to the upcoming year.

Faculty Senate President – Cole Shewmake, President

Dr. Shewmake expressed congratulations to the new Faculty Senate Executive members. He also reported recent news from the KBOR Faculty Senate Presidents' meeting. News includes: 1) exploring a common general education package for transfer, 2) alignment of spring break across the state and 3) the creation of a statement of values on free expression. Dr. Shewmake also asked for those interested in serving as the Faculty Senate representative for the upcoming University Strategic Planning Council to contact him. It would be a 3-year term. It was noted that Faculty Senate is only a 2-year term so adjustments may need to be made once the member is no longer on Faculty Senate.

Committee Reports

Academic Affairs – Steve Cox, Chair

No report.

Undergraduate Curriculum – Mary Jo Goedeke, Chair

Dr. Hendershot reported that the committee approved and recommends 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. Shewmake shared that the committee met on September 10th. The meeting notes can be found on the agenda.

Online and Distance Learning – Krissy Lewis, Chair

No report.

Academic Honors – John Daley, Chair

Dr. Daley announced that the committee received 52 applications, but only 19 were approved. The others were sent back for revisions. The committee discussed the need to revise the forms to make them more understandable.

Honors College – Michael Davidsson, Chair

Dr. Carlson reported that the committee is discussing the current application process and application criteria. There have been some questions raised regarding the amount of scholarship money allocated to the Honors College and the benefits of the program. For now, the application process will remain as is. Discussions will continue.

Writing Across the Curriculum – Laura Covert-Miller, Chair

No report.

Diversity and Multicultural Affairs – Jessica Jorgenson-Borchert, Chair

No report.

Student-Faculty – Gail Yarick, Chair

Ms. Yarick reported that the committee will meet on Friday to discuss the next steps for the proposed Dead Week policy.

All University Committee – Tatiana Goris, Chair

No report.

Faculty Affairs – Trina Larery, Chair

Dr. Shewmake noted that there are limited PD funds available this year. Due to the pandemic, the Foundation will not be providing additional funds. More funds may be available in the spring. Conference registrations and webinars can still be funded. The college deans are now the point of contact for these funds.

Constitution Committee – James Whitney, Chair

No report.

Pitt State Pathway Committee – Michelle Hudiburg, Chair

Mr. Kehle reported that Dr. Smith attended their first meeting. They discussed the new KBOR initiatives including a general education transfer package and the number of hours towards a degree from a community college moving from 60 to 75. This year the committee will also look at the learning outcomes for the Gorilla Gateway, specifically Digital Literacy.

Budget Committee – Tatiana Goris, Chair

No report.

Academic Honesty – Shawnee Hendershot, Chair

No report.

Unfinished Business

The Dead Week proposal was sent back to the Student-Faculty committee at the May meeting. The committee will be meeting on Friday to resume discussion.

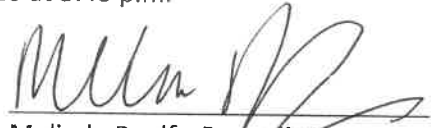
New Business

None.

Open Forum

There was a question if Zoom will be an option for future meetings. Since there were only two requests for Zoom for the September meeting, Faculty Senate will continue to meet in person. Representative can always send a replacement if they are not available to attend. Mr. Kehle noted that virtual concerts are being held at the Bicknell Center. The next concert will be Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned Meeting adjourned Monday, September 28, 2020 at 3:40 p.m.

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

Melinda Roelfs, Recording Secretary