

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

April 23, 2018

The Pittsburg State University Faculty Senate met at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, April 23, 2018 in the Sunflower Room of the Overman Student Center with Amy Hite, President, presiding.

Past Minutes

Minutes from March 26, 2018 meeting were approved.

Announcements

Speaking order did not follow agenda due to Dr. Olson's late arrival.

PSU/KNEA – Laura Washburn, President

Ms. Washburn advised that elections were complete and Grant Moss would be the KNEA president beginning in May. She also shared that contract discussion with the bargaining team would run throughout the summer. Ms. Washburn spoke of the general consensus from faculty she had heard from was that the University-Sponsored Student Activities policy was written too broadly. She had just left a meeting addressing a contract signed with Academic Partners promoting online MBA courses. She named several universities who had signed contracts in the past who had unfavorable things to say. She advised that others needed to see the presentation she had just witnessed.

Student Senate – Nick Bartelli, President

Mr. Bartelli spoke of 20 students applying for the new grant and SGA had given out the last two for this year. Each were \$2,000 and provide internship/job opportunities for these individuals. Senator Seth George will be the Faculty Senate liaison starting in May.

Unclassified Professional Senate – Erin Sullivan, President

Ms. Sullivan announced that new officers would begin their year on July 1st and Dr. Flood was working on updating the bylaws.

General Education Review Committee – Phil McNew, Mike Carper, Steve Horner and Katherine Hooey

Phil McNew provided details on the process thus far and included in the agenda the mission statement and core objectives. Questions arose on if this was a final document or if changes could still be made, about inclusion of liberal arts in the drafted model, and this being similar to another Kansas model with just some name changes. Many senators added that they were not aware when this model was presented in December 2017 that this would be the direction the committee would follow and admitted they had not followed the process on Canvas. Mr. McNew spoke of this being 'our' conceptual idea which still needs learning outcomes and matrix added, but this is the model being followed. Analogies were given that senators present did not realize the 'train had left the station' to this point and believed the outcome for the new PSU gen ed was to answer the question 'what should a gorilla know?' The feeling was this document did not reflect the anticipated response.

Dr. Mark Johnson added that this document is not set because it is Faculty Senate that will approve, but there needs to be a base to go from and the hand out is that starting point. This is an opportunity to rethink gen ed in a different way and there is no talk to throw out liberal arts or anything else. In fact Dr. Johnson spoke of seeing more opportunities to fit courses within the core values and objectives as listed. A great deal of discussion followed. Dr. Hite encouraged everyone to become part of the Canvas group and send the committee comments.

Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs – Dr. Lynette Olson

Dr. Olson underscored the importance and her appreciation for the general education committee and their undertaking. She pointed out this doesn't happen every year and the current gen ed package is very old and unfortunately not being properly assessed as we continued to cobble together a process whereby we can assess learning outcomes. We have understood for years this needed to be addressed. She encouraged full participation, stressing the important role that faculty plays in what we want our students to learn. She thanked those who had participated to date and encouraged everyone moving forward to be invested. She stressed we remain focused on at the end of the day we want what will be best for our students.

Dr. Hite added her thanks to the committee and all those who attended focus groups and presentations.

Laura Washburn asked the date faculty could expect summer teaching contracts. Dr. Olson replied she believed they had gone out the prior week, or at least a majority of the contracts were released at that time.

Faculty Senate President – Dr. Amy Hite, President

Dr. Hite indicated there was no KBOR meeting in April, but have been asked to look at a Consensual Romantic Relationship Policy for discussion in May. This would impact more than faculty and the group is collecting information from other existing policies. Dr. Hite advised she would send an email to the group after the May KBOR meeting providing an update on this action.

Committee signup form will be on Google docs and Dr. Hite encourages everyone to take a look and sign up. Assignments to committees will be done by Cliff Morris in June or July.

Committee Reports

Academic Affairs – Jorge Leon, Chair

Dr. Hite announced that Jorge Leon is the new chair of the committee because Dr. Maeve Cummings was named interim chair of ACIS. Mr. Leon reviewed the definitions, as found in the agenda, as being ready for a second reading and vote. There was no discussion and the motion was approved.

Undergraduate Curriculum – James McBain, Chair

Dr. McBain noted the curriculum items, found in the agenda, were approved by the committee. Motion made and with no discussion was unanimously approved. Dr. McBain advised that there was an even larger curriculum package anticipated for next month.

Library Services/Learning Resources – Hazel Coltharp, Chair

Jorge Leon shared the extended hours at the library for both dead and final week of Monday through Thursday until 1:00 a.m..

Information Systems – Tracy Rampy, Chair

Second reading of bylaw changes to dissolve this committee and increase faculty representation on ITC. Motion carries unanimously.

Continuing Studies – Liz Mascher, Chair

As found in the agenda, a first reading was presented of a name change for this subcommittee from Continuing Studies to Online and Distance Learning. It was emphasized that nothing was being changed other than the name. A second reading will be held in May.

Departmental Academic Honors – Rion Huffman, Chair

There was a reminder of the May 1st deadline for departments to have their guidelines for Academic Honors submitted to the Registrar's Office.

Student-Faculty – Barb McClaskey, Chair

Dr. Hite advised there would be a second reading of the Policy on University-Sponsored Student Activities. She asked Dr. Johnson, as parliamentarian, to review Robert's Rules prior to the discussion beginning.

Dr. McClaskey began with comments she had been provided by faculty. She emphasized that the policy does not ever imply that academic value was not of the utmost importance and it is noted in the preamble the shared importance of a student's experience including academic. Faculty had pointed out to her that notations to the syllabus could create exceptions to the policy.

Dr. Chris Childers began a series of comments from senators in the room by reading from an email presented to him by Dr. Tim Bailey which read: may I suggest the following addition to the proposed policy:

While the course instructor is encouraged to accommodate such student requests, any date of a formal test, presentation, or group presentation that is listed in the syllabus has priority.

I have often accommodated student requests for changes in dates for tests and individual assignment submissions. While this can be disruptive to the flow of the course materials presentation, for the most part it only affects the student in question. However, in many of my classes, I have group projects and major simulation exercises that require formal group presentations. In a number of these, I have other faculty participate and, when possible, also include members of the City of Pittsburgh government. These dates are listed in the syllabus. Participation by other professionals is arranged well in advance (for the obvious reason of their schedules). There is no opportunity to reschedule due to the absence of one group member. It is also not possible to have one segment of a presentation be done by one individual on another day, without disrupting the opportunity for success of the other students in that group. This has major impacts on final grades for those students. Not only does the absent student suffer, but so do all the members in that group.

Bob Kehle added that sometimes these activities are part of a class and not always cut-and-dry. It was important that faculty accommodate as best we can to schedule make-up work/exams as soon as a known absence is announced.

Dr. Mark Peterson reminded the group that often there are projects within a course that are essential to the knowledge being presented and missing these group activities lets down other members of the class, but agreed it is good to accommodate when possible.

Dr. Jim McBain spoke of having similar structure in his classes as identified by Dr. Bailey's email. These are things that cannot be replicated. The policy suggests accommodations, but sometimes there is no adequate accommodation. Things are scheduled months in advance and can't be easily changed to accommodate one student. He goes on to ask, do we need to come up with other assignments that we feel are equivalent?

Kevin Elliott noted that within the College of Technology sometimes these university sponsored activities are internships and student competitions and he would hate for our students to miss these opportunities.

Gil Cooper voiced his concern that it cannot always be the instructors who make the accommodations and faculty should not be made to feel that learning through instruction be second or of less value. Adding another thought that even in his own experience he would have had to cancel play productions to area public schools if cast members had not been allowed to miss their classes.

Dr. Peterson agreed with Mr. Cooper that we all accommodate and reiterated his support for the Bailey amendment. Students and faculty alike need to be aware of choices and know the difference of when it is a matter of choice. Sometimes students need to be in class and that should be their choice.

Dr. McClaskey joined back into the conversation sharing that the committee took into consideration that there could be an ability to abuse the policy and tried to address those concerns within the policy. Andrea McConnaughey agreed that the committee found a way to address abuse and that no language will cover all concerns. She agreed that having a syllabus exception like noted in the Bailey amendment would be helpful.

Dr. John Franklin shared from an email written by Don Judd that applauded the spirit of the proposed policy but that Dr. Judd felt like 48 hour notice was very short and the email also spoke of in-class workshops and group presentations that are difficult to assign an equal educational experience to accommodate the absence. A similar sentiment was shared of unfairness to others in the class when group presentations are short a member. In closing the email read, my concern with the proposed policy is that the policy as written dictates that any USSA will always take precedence over the structure and integrity of our courses, regardless of whether accommodations are feasible. Our judgement as instructors is disregard for a one-size-fits-all policy, and University-Sponsored Student Activities become the tail that wags the dog.

A raised-hand vote was taken and the policy passed by a vote of 25 to 9.

Faculty Affairs – Michelle Hudiburg, Chair

Michelle Hudiburg shared that there was slightly over \$500 remaining in the professional development fund. The committee also had 75 responses to the survey on if the application and review procedures should be changed. The

consensus was pretty much split down the middle on if a procedural change was necessary. Going forward the committee will not be making any changes at this time.

Constitution – Norman Phillip, Chair

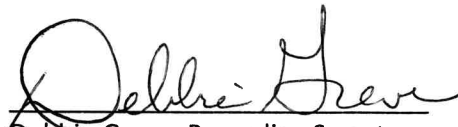
Dr. Johnson advised what was included in the agenda would be the first read of by-law revisions to be voted on in May.

Unfinished Business None

New Business None

Open Forum Bob Kehle spoke of a concert in the Bicknell Center on Wednesday at 7:30.

Meeting Adjourned Motion to adjourn was approved at 4:28 p.m.


Debbie Greve, Recording Secretary

Call to Order was made by President-Elect Cliff Morris at 4:30. Election of Officers was conducted by 2018-19 senators present. As ballots were being distributed, it was stated that senators could write-in a nomination. When votes were tallied all officers as noted on the ballot were elected. Congratulations were shared by both Cliff and Amy.


Faculty Senate 2018-19 officers are:

President Elect: Kevin Bracker
Secretary: Andrea Kent-McConnaughey
Parliamentarian: Mark Johnson

Executive Committee:

Barbara McClaskey
Kyle Thompson
Kristen Livingston
Chris Fogliasso
Cole Shewmake

Meeting adjourned at 4:33


Debbie Greve, Recording Secretary

**FACULTY SENATE MEMBERSHIP
(2017-2018)**

	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May
Childers, (History, Philosophy & Social Sci)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Cooper, (At-Large)	X	X			X	X		X	
Cox, (At-Large)	X	X	X		X	X		X	
Daley, (At-Large)	X	X	X		X		X	X	
Elliott, (Technology & Workforce Learning)			X*	X	X	X*	X	X	
Fincher, (Teaching and Leadership)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Fogliasso, (Management and Marketing)	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Franklin, (English and Modern Languages)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Frisbee, (Nursing)	X	X	X	X	X	X*	X	X	
Gupta, (Chemistry)	X	X	X	X	X	X*	X	X	
Hendershot, (Family & Consumer Sciences)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Hite, (President)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Hollingsworth, (Military Science)									
Hudiburg, (At-Large)		X	X	X	X	X		X	
Jewett, (Past-President)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Johnson, Mark, (At-Large)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Kehle, (At-Large)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Leon, (Library Services)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Livingston, (Communication)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Maxwell, (Engineering Technology)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
McBain, James, (Hist, Philosophy & Soc Sci)	X	X		X	X	X	X*	X	
McBain, Rhona, (Art)	X	X	X					X*	
McClaskey, (At-Large)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
McConaughy, (Graphics & Imaging Tech)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
McKinnis, (Economics, Finance, & Banking)	X	X	X			X	X		
Moots, (English & Modern Languages)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Morris, (School of Construction)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Munguia, (Music)		X	X	X	X	X		X	
Norman, (Automotive Technology)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X*	
Paul, (At-Large)	X	X			X	X		X	
Peterson, Mark, (At-Large)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Runyan, (At-Large)	X	X	X		X				
Schiefelbein, (At-Large)			X*		X			X	
Shewmake, (Health, Human Perform & Rec)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Siam, (At-Large)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Spera, (Psychology and Counseling)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Tayo, (Physics)	X	X	X		X	X		X	
Thompson, Kyle, (Women's Studies)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Thuong, (Mathematics)	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Whitney, (Biology)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Yarick, (Accounting & Computer Inf Systems)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
University Support Staff Senate Rep	X	X							
Unclassified Professional Senate Rep	X		X		X	X		X	
Student Government Representative	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

*Julie Dainty substituted for Kevin Elliott and Jennifer Harris substituted for Jan Schiefelbein at the November meeting. Judy Smetana substituted for Kevin Elliott, Anna Beth Gilmore substituted for Kristi Frisbee and Khamis Siam substituted for Ram Krishna Gupta at the February meeting. Don Viney substituted for James McBain at the March meeting. Portico Bowman substituted for Rhona McBain and Steve Polley substituted for Scott Norman at the April meeting.

**FACULTY SENATE MEMBERSHIP
(2018-2019)**

	April 23, 2018 meeting
Bailey, (At-Large)	X
Book, (At-Large)	X
Childers, (History, Philosophy & Social Sci)	
Cooper, (At-Large)	X
Dainty, (At-Large)	X
Elliott, (Technology & Workforce Learning)	X
Fincher, (Teaching and Leadership)	X
Fogliasso, (Management and Marketing)	X
Franklin, (English and Modern Languages)	X
Frisbee, (Nursing)	X
Gupta, (Chemistry)	X
Hendershot, (Family & Consumer Sciences)	X
Hite, (Past-President)	X
Hollingsworth, (Military Science)	
Hudiburg, (At-Large)	X
Huffman, (At-Large)	X
Jayawardhana, (At-Large)	X
Johnson, Mark, (At-Large)	X
Leon, (Library Services)	X
Livingston, (Communication)	X
Maxwell, (Engineering Technology)	X
McBain, James, (Hist, Philosophy & Soc Sci)	X
McBain, Rhona, (Art)	
McClaskey, (At-Large)	X
McConnaughey, (Graphics & Imaging Tech)	X
McKinnis, (Economics, Finance, & Banking)	
Moots, (English & Modern Languages)	X
Morris, (President)	X
Moss, (At-Large)	X
Munguia, (Music)	
Norman, (Automotive Technology)	X*
Rider, (At-Large)	X
Schaffner, (School of Construction)	
Shewmake, (Health, Human Perform & Rec)	X
Spera, (Psychology and Counseling)	X
Tayo, (Physics)	X
Thompson, Kyle, (Women's Studies)	X
Thuong, (Mathematics)	
Whitney, (Biology)	X
Yarick, (Accounting & Computer Inf Systems)	X
Zepernick, (At-Large)	X

*Steve Polley substituted for Scott Norman.