

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES  
September 25, 2017

The Pittsburg State University Faculty Senate met at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, September 25, 2017 in the Sunflower Room of the Overman Student Center with Amy Hite, President, presiding.

**Past Minutes**

Minutes for May 8, 2017 meeting approved with suggestion of change in verbiage in Faculty Affairs recap slightly to avoid confusion on who made a recommendation on parceling of funds.

**Announcements**

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

Dr. Olson began by sharing her appreciation to faculty and recognition of everyone being extremely busy. She spoke of the up-coming 20<sup>th</sup> day announcement to be made by KBOR on enrollment counts for all Kansas higher education institutions. She added that the last couple of years PSU had seen a decline in enrollment and that would be the case again this year, noting that international student enrollment makes up 68% of the decline and named some possible national and international news as part of the justification. She encouraged faculty to continue to take care of our campus visitors, as this is an important step toward making an enrollment decision.

Dr. Olson pointed out that State allocation has remained flat and we are at the 2006 level and it is this along with tuition that make our revenue. Expenditures and revenue need to align on campus like at home, thus there have had to be some adjustments in budget the last 2 or 3 years and again this year. Dr. Olson stated that anytime anyone has questions she is willing to speak to individually and clarify the best she can. Preserving core and quality of education for our students was stressed as hard decisions are being made. She noted she appreciated the cooperation of Deans and Chairpersons as they also have difficult decisions to make.

*PSU/KNEA – Dr. Laura Washburn, President*

Dr. Washburn spoke of pending raises based on promotions and mandated 2.5% pay increases for those working less than 5 years without a raise. She added that there are two task forces recently created to review possibility of budget savings. One task force is looking into the process used to gather teacher evaluations and the other on summer school. She was aware and urged to relay that we are looking at harsh decisions and want faculty to be part of the decision and willing to provide opinions. Dr. Olson added that faculty will be brought into these discussions.

*Student Senate – Nick Bartelli, President*

Learned it was difficult to obtain votes when passing a new constitution at same time as elections. There were 32 open spots and new senators will be sworn in at Wednesday meeting. There are still 3 open positions, all from the College of Technology. Activities include, free student printing expanding to 3 stations. These printers are not part of the GUS print system. Last year 42,000 Scantrons were given out to faculty and students and thus far this year over 5000 already distributed. Also, SGA would like to work to promote new classes to students prior to the next semester. Will be working with multiple offices to identify new courses and to promote them to students. The Beyond Classroom grant has been doubled from \$1500 to \$3000 and will be awarded during Apple Day.

*Unclassified Senate – Erin Sullivan, President*

Per Erin Sullivan the senate had their first meeting for the semester and just getting started. She shared her appreciation for having this opportunity to learn from attending Faculty Senate.

*University Support Staff – Michael Klor, President*

Mr. Klor announced that some university support staff have now received their 2.5% raises and a few employees are now making more than others who have been here longer without raises. Looking at options to address this concern.

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

Phil McNew and Steve Horner both attended. They recapped what was accomplished last year and provided a rough idea of plans for this year. Met with Provost Leadership this past summer and were made aware of BOR movement toward 120 credit hour minimum to graduate. Noting there will be exceptions, but believe the reduction of hours will be obtained through reduction of general education hours. Spoke of good discussion at Professional

Development In-Service in August. With the help of a new part-time graduate assistant to assist in compiling surveys and notes from meetings held last year will have to provide to a new sub-committee tasked to get curriculum together. Timeline is to have proposal to Faculty Senate by late next semester and approved next year after time for discussion. Implementation planned for Fall 2019.

*Faculty Senate President – Dr. Amy Hite, President*

KBOR is recommending all programs align to a 120 credit hour maximum, unless licensure, certification or accreditation warrants additional hours. Those programs will apply for an exemption to the 120 hour maximum. They feel programs over 120 hours are extending great expense to students and longer time to degree. PSU has spoken to the Regents and they understand that we are completing our Gen Ed review and we can align with that time frame. We will need to submit an implementation plan, to show our intentions. FHSU is also going through Gen Ed review.

Dr. Hite also shared a link that shows different degrees at the 6 Regent universities:

[https://submission.kansasregents.org/public/pi\\_search\\_advanced.jsp](https://submission.kansasregents.org/public/pi_search_advanced.jsp)

KBOR will be looking at College Algebra, to determine if it is the most beneficial math class to require for most programs or if other math courses are more suitable (Statistics or Computation courses). She plans to work with the Math Dept. and asking for other input as this discussion begins.

There will not be meeting in Oct, the CoFSPs will meet via Zoom. We will be asking for Liaison status at all Board committees.

Faculty Affairs has been allocated \$90,000 for Professional Development, we appreciate Dr. Olson presenting on behalf of faculty. Please consider sending a thank you note, if you receive funding. Please extend this to all your depts./schools. It can be sent to Kathleen Flannery and she can pass on to the Foundation. It is their largest single ticket funding item. A general thank you was sent upon receiving the letter that \$90,000 was approved from Faculty Senate.

New Program submission must be to KBOR 6 weeks prior to the meeting, to make their agenda. In the past it was 4 weeks. Deans were notified by Trish on June 21.

### **Committee Reports**

*Undergraduate Curriculum – James McBain, Chair*

Dr. McBain explained the document provided to recap the curriculum items presented. There were items that were tabled until Dr. Eric Harris of Kelce College of Business and Dr. John Oppliger, chairperson of HHPR discussed COB concerns on accreditation with HHPR's proposed new emphases and aligning courses. All items listed on the summary sheet that were passed or not noted as tabled were voted upon and passed.

*Library Services/Learning Resources – Hazel Coltharp, Chair*

Jorge Leon reported that the Library Services committee met and identified a chair and recorder. The group discussed the renovations of Axe Library's 3rd floor. They hoped the floor would be available in October, with new types of individual and quiet spaces for users. Library services continues the Book Reviewing project they have been working on for the last year and a half. The expectation is to complete that project by the end of the year.

*Honors College – James Green, Chair*

The Honors College committee held its first meeting on September 13, 2017. Dr. Fuchs explained the Honors College application process to new committee members and a chair of the committee decided. The committee will not meet again until the end of the Fall semester when we will make plans for evaluating applications in January in anticipation of conducting interviews in February.

*Writing Across the Curriculum – Rebeca Book, Chair*

Forty-one submissions to review by October 13.

*Faculty Affairs – Michelle Hudiburg, Chair*

Dr. McBain reported that at the end of the Spring semester committee reviewed options for distribution of travel funds. Historically have not been able to fund summer conferences, partially due to heavy fall requests received in the Fall term. Had 5 choices and was asked to come back with one choice. Dr. McBain asked those present “Do you want us to even change it?” “Are you happy?” Dr. Washburn replied that those with summer conferences were not happy. Dr. McBain responded that if change was wanted, the committee would begin to address. He plans to send an email asking for feedback and provide a deadline. Bob Kehle asked how many people and how many dollars are we talking about and if we knew who would be left out without changing? Dr. McBain stated that 13 people received no funding last year and he knew there were others who did not apply knowing they would not be funded. Recognize this is not a new situation. Another concern mentioned was multi-authored papers. If there are 5 authors, do we fund all of them?

Dr. Mark Johnson advised that those who know the process should be educating younger faculty on the process adding that it makes sense to save back money for the end of the year. He also encouraged keeping it simple to which Dr. McBain shared his concern that simple cuts out people. Thus far in one month there have been 31 requests awarded for a total of \$33,195 noting that there were others still in the pipeline. By the end of next month could be half the funds expended.

*General Education – Mark Johnson, Chair*

Dr. Johnson noted this was the third year of assessment and hope to finalize this year. This semester History, English, Philosophy, Chemistry, and Physics are doing course reviews.

*Academic Dishonesty – Clifford Morris, Chair*

Mr. Morris spoke of having two meetings in September and there was a total of 5 meetings all last year.

**Unfinished Business** None

**New Business** None

**Open Forum**

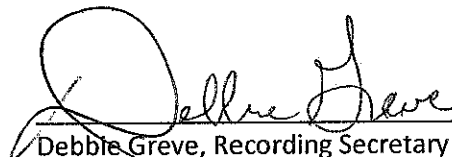
Bob Kehle – Faculty Ensemble at Bicknell Center

Jorge Leon – recent email sent out on Axe Library hosting events for Banned Books week

Gil Cooper – NCATE visit went well and Dr. Dockers did really well spoke of collegiality working very well

Amy Hite – noted that by-laws approved and updated on the faculty senate website

**Meeting Adjourned** Motion to adjourn was approved at 3:58 p.m.

  
Debbie Greve, Recording Secretary

