

## FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

October 23, 2017

The Pittsburg State University Faculty Senate met at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, October 23, 2017 in the Sunflower Room of the Overman Student Center with Amy Hite, President, presiding.

### Past Minutes

Minutes from September 25, 2017 meeting were approved.

### Announcements

Dr. Hite announced that Doug Ball, was in attendance as a guest. Mr. Ball is the Chief Financial Officer and Vice President for Administration.

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

Dr. Olson advised that the Summer Teaching Innovation Grant application deadline of September was intentionally delayed while revisiting the scope of the grant and reviewing this endowed account. Want to continue to invest in faculty and also important University initiatives will be related to enrollment increases going forward. Course or program development, recruitment strategy for departments are suggestions. Team efforts would be encouraged as well. The plan is for this to be a beta year to be rolled out soon as perimeters are determined. Watch for something possibly called Academic Affairs Innovation Grant for more information. The evaluation this year will be done by Faculty Senate and KNEA presidents as they have been involved in the development thus far. Dr. Olson encourages questions to be directed to her.

When asked about removing the focus for the grant from teaching, Dr. Olson replied the application can be teaching, but this allows for a broader base. The original intent was for summer enhancement and help change the use of technology from transparencies to PowerPoints. If considering development of new courses, Dr. Olson suggests a focus on how it will enhance enrollment.

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

Dr. Washburn began by commenting that a great deal of her time the past month has been answering questions and encourages faculty with questions to reach out to her. She announced plans for the November executive meeting on November 7<sup>th</sup> and reminded the group that the meeting is open to all KNEA members.

#### *Student Senate – Nick Bartelli, President*

Mr. Bartelli read from a list of accomplishments and plans including: Reinstatement of old tradition – Campus Contributor of the Month which allows for nominations by students of Unclassified, University Support Staff and faculty. Light Walk, safe and well-lite check, looking for places on campus where safety can be improved with better lighting or designated crosswalks. There were a couple of locations identified that could be improved by better lighting. Beyond the Classroom grant to accept applications through February and plan to announce the recipients at Apple Day. The grant is up to \$3,000. SGA meetings are all now broadcast on Facebook Live in an effort to fulfill SGA's promise of being more transparent and open for students to be involved.

#### *Unclassified Senate – Erin Sullivan, President*

Not present.

#### *University Support Staff – Michael Klor, President*

Mr. Klor advised the USS state-level group is working on a survey about morale and incentives that would work for all campuses across the state. He stated that morale on campus was down and that the last local meeting was very interesting based on what was being shared, especially about some employees receiving raises while others did not.

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

Dr. Horner shared that the committee is now meeting once a week and reviewing survey responses from employer groups on what employers seek. New student outcomes are in the design phase. Mr. Bob Kehle asked about the push to change minimum credit hours to 120 from 124, to which Dr. Horner stated the reduction would come from general education courses and not majors. Dr. Olson added that Faculty Senate presidents were also discussing this topic

and that the KBOR policy was clear. Baccalaureate degrees must be completed in 120 hours and that any majors over 120 hours will need to be approved by the BOR as an exception. She added that BOR is interested in reducing cost, assisting students in completing their degree plan and that there be consistency across the state. Dr. Hite added that BOR is looking at reducing the need for an extra semester and thus extend the time to graduate and in her discussion with other Faculty Senate presidents it is recognized that there will be programs that may need more hours, but there is a need to keep exceptions to a minimum.

Dr. Washburn asked what kind of employers were being surveyed. Dr. Horner stated he knew of those attending the College of Technology Career Day and other university-wide Career Days.

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

Dr. Hite reported that the KBOR meeting met by Zoom in October for 1 ½ hours. In November the meeting will be at WSU and back in Topeka in December. The October meeting focused on the 120 hour policy and that an implementation plan letter to the BOR is due by March. There was also discussion on College Algebra as a degree requirement. In discussing this state-wide concern, Dr. Hite contacted Dr. Tim Flood (Chairperson of Mathematics) and discussed that PSU does provide other math options within the current general education requirements.

KSU shared information on their Open Education Resources which provide some incentives for faculty to use, but costs go up during a time they are attempting to save money. KSU gave a 2.5% increase to all employees and is now down in enrollment. ESU is processing the discontinuation of 2 programs (1 graduate and 1 minor) which is impacting tenure earning faculty.

**Committee Reports**

*Undergraduate Curriculum – James McBain, Chair*

Dr. McBain reviewed the Undergraduate Curriculum summary page provided to recap the curriculum items presented. There was no discussion. The curricular items all passed unanimously.

*Honors College – James Green, Chair*

Michelle Hudiburg represented the committee with the report. Ms. Hudiburg presented for a first reading a proposed change to the number of honors credits students within Honors College must acquire to remain in good standing as members of the college. (See attachment) Mr. Kehle asked if this needed to go through the curriculum committee. Dr. Mark Johnson responded it was coming from the Honors College committee and appropriate to do so.

Dr. Craig Fuchs was present and shared the changes would provide more flexibility for the student. They may graduate from Honors College, but not with Departmental Academic Honors. The option is being offered in part because many members transfer in General Education course and do not need Honors General Education courses.

*Faculty Affairs – Michelle Hudiburg, Chair*

Per Ms. Hudiburg the committee has reviewed sabbatical applications and returned them to the Provost. Thus far \$46,379.01 of professional development has been approved leaving approximately \$43,600. The committee is collecting data and looking at options for the future on approval and distribution of funds.

**Unfinished Business** None

**New Business** None

**Open Forum**

Jorge Leon – reminded group of final call for faculty authors' reception.

**Meeting Adjourned** Motion to adjourn was approved at 3:41 p.m.

  
Debbie Greve, Recording Secretary

To: Amy Hite, Faculty Senate President

From: Jim Greene, Honors College Committee Chair

Subject: Report for 10/23/17 Faculty Senate Meeting

Date: 10/20/17

Since last month's Faculty Senate meeting, The Honors College Committee has taken up one major piece of business. We voted to revise the policy regarding the number of honors credits students within the Honors College must acquire to remain in good standing as members of the college. The specific details of this change can be found in the proposal from Dr. Fuchs which I have quoted in its entirety below:

October 13, 2017

Currently, the Honors College students are required to earn 21 "honors credits" to graduate as a member in good standing. These credits can be earned through:

Honors Gen Ed Courses (3 credits per 3 hour course)

Honors Contracts (3 credits per 3 hour course)

Study Abroad Programs (3 credits per program)

Research Colloquium Participation (3 credits per oral presentation)

Taking non-required Graduate Classes (3 credits per 3 hour course)

Departmental Academic Honors Program (all 9 hours of projects required)

I am proposing that we make the Departmental Academic Honors program a non-required and optional component of their requirements. They can participate to the level of their interests, but do not necessarily have to complete all 9 credits. The total of 21 honors credits will still be required, but they can earn those credits from any combination of the above options. If they choose to complete all 9 credits of the Departmental Academic Honors program, they will receive their honor cords and their transcript designation as always. If they choose not to do all 9 credits, they will not receive either of these designations.

After reviewing this proposal, the committee voted in favor of implementing this change. During the discussion, committee members unanimously agreed that this change would allow greater flexibility for Honors College students in obtaining honors credits, and would help many students create a clearer path towards completing their degrees.

Please let me know if you need any additional information regarding this policy.

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

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