

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES  
September 23, 2019

The Pittsburg State University Faculty Senate met at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, September 23, 2019 in the Sunflower Room of the Overman Student Center with Kevin Bracker, President, presiding.

**Past Minutes**

Minutes from the May 6, 2019 meeting were approved.

**Announcements**

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

Dr. Smith shared that at the most recent KBOR meeting new Qualified Admission requirements were passed. The effective date is still being discussed. The new requirements will require at least a 21 ACT score or a cumulative high school GPA of at least a 2.25. Specific courses will no longer be required in a student's high school curriculum for admission. It was decided to remove class rank as a qualifier as many high schools no longer rank and schools that do use different factors to determine class rank. There is little consistency. Dr. Smith also provided an update on the Strategic Visioning project. The RPK group is returning this fall to complete phase 2 of the project. Phase 2 will focus on the structure of Academic Affairs, peer comparisons and market analysis. Data presented to Pitt State from RPK will be used at the discretion of Academic Affairs. Ultimately, we will decide how to move forward with recommendations. A final report is expected in December. Lastly, Dr. Smith announced that we have a small net increase in headcount for fall 2019; positive news after several years of experiencing a decrease.

*PSU/KNEA – Grant Moss, President*

Dr. Moss indicated that the 2.5% increase was voted on by KBOR at the September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. The increase can be expected on the October 18<sup>th</sup> paychecks. This year KNEA will be negotiating the entire contract. If you would like to serve/participate, please contact Dr. Moss. Dr. Moss and Dr. Smith have discussed the process for Tenure and Promotion and the use of Activities Insight. A need for clarity regarding how documents should look as part of the process has been expressed. This came up as a result of some folks submitting documents that were directly from Activities Insight and some who were submitting documents that had been changed to resemble the old system. We don't want the way documents looks to impact decisions. A group will be set up to discuss. Contact Dr. Moss if you have ideas to share.

*Student Senate – Alexis Houser, Representative*

No report.

*Unclassified Professional Senate – Brad Stefanoni, President*

Mr. Stefanoni shared that they just met a couple weeks ago and have nothing yet to report.

*University Support Staff – Terry Pierce, President*

No report.

*Faculty Senate President – Kevin Bracker, President*

Dr. Bracker stated that the two constitutional amendments voted on after the General Faculty meeting in August both passed. Allowing the Registrar to designate an appointed attendee to take minutes passed by a vote of 111 to 6. Changing wording from General Education to Pitt State Pathway passed by a vote of 113 to 5. Dr. Bracker also shared that the traditional class schedule will be going away soon; a new schedule is being developed. This was also mentioned at the General Faculty meeting in August. Dr. Bracker was asked to place it on the Faculty Senate agenda. Dr. Bracker visited with Angela Neria and Angela provided the following comments:

- Programming language used for traditional schedule is out-of-date. It's hard to find programmers with experience in the language.
- Programming errors are hard to track down in old system.
- New schedule will be mobile friendly. (The mobile friendly version has been noted as a negative by some because additional clicks are required to expand information. There is a pdf format with the new schedule that will allow folks to view all courses at once if they desire.)

- Project with Academic Affairs, not just ITS project.
- Seeking student input.
- Improvements continue to be made.

Angela noted that she is happy to meet with Faculty Senate if requested.

It was asked if ITS has reached out to faculty to get their input. Dr. Smith indicated that they would like to include three faculty advisors in the working group to provide input not only on the new schedule but also on the new degree audit. It was also shared that the new degree audit may eventually include a roadmap to allow students/advisors to build multi-year plans. If anyone would like to volunteer to participate, please send your name to Dr. Bracker. It was asked if the new schedule could become part of Master Advisory Training. Dr. Bracker could not confirm at this time as the project is still evolving.

As a Regents update, Dr. Bracker also noted the change to the admission requirements and mentioned that the Regents would be asking for \$50 million in appropriations for Fiscal Year 20-21.

### **Committee Reports**

#### *Academic Affairs – Steve Cox, Chair*

Mr. Cox reported that the committee met on September 11<sup>th</sup> for the sole purpose of electing chair and recorder. Steve Cox was elected chair and Janice Jewett was elected recorder. Other members include Barbara McClaskey, Brian Moots, Gary Wilson and Shirpa Paul. Alexis Houser is one of the student representatives; the other is still to be decided.

#### *Undergraduate Curriculum – Nico Prelogar, Chair*

Mr. Prelogar reported that the committee met on September 13<sup>th</sup> to review 5 requests, one for a new course and four for changes to curriculum. The committee approved and recommended all 5.

Dr. Bracker noted that the proposal from HHPR – Exercise Science was missing credit hours in the Pathway courses and would need to be updated. With the friendly amendment to HHPR-Exercise Science, the motion to approve the curriculum items passed unanimously.

#### *Library Services/Learning Resources – Gail Yarick, Chair*

Ms. Yarick reported that the Committee met on September 5<sup>th</sup> and were welcomed to the Axe Library by Randy Roberts and Jorge Leon. The following were shared:

- Library is participating in Gorilla Gateway with focus on information literacy.
- The Axe Library is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- The grand opening of Phase IV is tentatively scheduled for October 8<sup>th</sup>.

Additional details of the meeting were included in the Faculty Senate agenda.

#### *Online and Distance Learning – Krissy Lewis, Chair*

It was reported that the committee met and organized when they would meet for the rest of the semester.

#### *Academic Honors – TBD, Chair*

No report. They are still determining a Chair.

#### *Honors College – Rebeca Book, Chair*

Ms. Book reported that they will be meeting on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### *Writing Across the Curriculum – Alex Binder, Chair*

Dr. Binder reported that the committee met and selected chair and recorder. They have received submissions for the Writing to Learn and Best Practices grant and are in the process of reviewing them.

#### *Diversity and Multicultural Affairs – Jason Reid, Chair*

Dr. Conrad reported that the committee met on September 13<sup>th</sup> and selected a chair and recorder.

*Student-Faculty – Daniel Maxwell, Chair*

Dr. Maxwell reported that the scheduled meeting was cancelled so they met over email to elect a chair and recorder.

*All University Committee – Jennifer Harris, Chair*

No report.

*Faculty Affairs – Andrea Kent-McConnaughey, Chair*

It was reported that there is \$100,000 available for faculty travel. The committee has approved 24 out of 25 requests.

*Constitution Committee – Mark Johnson, Chair*

Dr. Johnson reported that the committee discussed electronically the questions raised by Dr. Moss last spring regarding the process for first and second readings. The committee voted and recommends the following:

“On behalf of the Constitution Committee, we recommend that the Faculty Senate establish a policy that any new business item brought to the senate without prior committee review be placed on first reading and will go on the agenda as a second reading at the next scheduled Faculty Senate meeting.”

The motion was approved.

After the motion was approved, there was a great deal of discussion on if the policy would provide representatives enough time to share and vet new business items with their departments. If the new business went through a committee, that would be considered the first reading. The second reading would be at the next Faculty Senate meeting where it would also be voted on. Dr. Jayawardhana raised the question of when do representatives have the ability to take it back to their departments for discussion prior to the second reading and vote. Dr. Johnson noted since each committee has representatives from each college, the committee members would be tasked with getting the information disseminated throughout the departments. Several expressed that there would not be enough time to do this, especially within the larger colleges/departments. Mr. Kehle suggested that if the new business makes it on the Faculty Senate agenda, could an email be sent to all faculty and chairs as a means to prompt discussion. It was noted, however, the agenda is only released one week before the Faculty Senate meeting. Again, this may not be enough time for representatives to meet with departments. Representatives may have a larger window if the new business is first referred to a committee at the previous Faculty Senate meeting and noted in the minutes. The result would not be available for discussion, but the topic would be.

After discussion, it was moved and seconded to re-open the vote. Dr. Bracker broke the tie and the motion passed.

Additional discussion focused on items that do come through a committee. The concern is that the committee recommendation presented at the Faculty Senate would be considered the second reading and this essentially provides no time for representatives to share the items with their departments. It was suggested that we simply amend the original policy to address items that go through committee. One suggestion was to create a viewing period for items that originate in committee similar to what's done with curricular items. However, if an item was pressing, then the waiting period may become an obstacle. A Faculty Senate member could move to suspend the waiting period on pressing issues, but then it becomes the responsibility of Faculty Senate members to decide what's pressing and what's not.

After attempts to amend the original policy, it was motioned and approved to send it back to the Constitution Committee for additional review.

*Pitt State Pathway Committee – Michelle Hudiburg, Chair*

Mr. Kehle reported the committee approved and recommended that Honors 200 (Special Topics: The Power of Music) be added to the Pitt State Pathway. Dr. Moss asked if there was concern with an Honor College course being

within the Music department. Mr. Kehle noted that it was not a concern. This is an existing course and had already been a part of general education. The motion was approved.

A special guest, Dr. Nancy Quam-Wickham from the National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment, is coming on September 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss assessment. Her visit is sponsored by a grant. Her itinerary was included in the Faculty Senate agenda. There are many opportunities to meet her and two specific times for faculty workshops (11am and 1pm). This would be a good program for those considering adding a new course to the Pitt State Pathway.

*Budget Committee – Linden Dalecki, Chair*  
No Report

*Academic Honesty – Cole Shewmake, Chair*  
Dr. Shewmake reported that one maxient report was submitted for tracking purposes only.

**Unfinished Business**

None

**New Business**

None

**Open Forum**

Dr. Jayawardhana announced that 16 Pitt State representatives will be attending the Tilford Conference on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> at University of Kansas. He also suggested that we use the term “faculty professional development funds” versus “faculty travel money”. Lastly, Dr. Jayawardhana welcomed Dr. Smith to the Faculty Senate.

Dr. Johnson announced that the Diwali Festival of Lights is planned for October 26th at 5pm in the Crimson & Gold Ballroom. This is one of the most popular events on campus with around 300+ attendees. Students will begin performances at 5pm. There is an all you can eat Indian buffet in Grubbs Hall after the performance. The event concludes with the fireworks/lights show. Tickets are \$15.

**Meeting Adjourned** Motion to adjourn was approved at 3:55 p.m.

  
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Melinda Roelfs, Recording Secretary