

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

May 11, 2020

The Pittsburg State University Faculty Senate met via CANVAS at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, May 11, 2020, with Kevin Bracker, President, presiding.

Past Minutes

Minutes from the April 27, 2020 meeting were approved.

Announcements

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

Dr Smith provided the following updates:

-The planning for possible transitioning back to campus is underway. This is all contingent upon local, state and federal orders and guidelines. The planning groups involve stakeholders from across campus in three focus areas of academics, student life and budget. The Academics Working Group has built a Q&A file, with over 100 items to date. All the questions and answers will be available on the COVID-19 site. In addition, the academics working group has created four sub-committees to address issues and questions for curricular design, scheduling, safety and space. The groups are working as diligently as possible to have a plan developed as quickly as possible.

-PSU received notification that our application for CARES Act stimulus funds was received, however we do not know when the funds will arrive. The application process of disbursement for students is about completed.

-Reminder: There is a new process for faculty reappointment. First letters will be to the unit faculty and then continuing non-tenure letters will follow later if all goes well. Kristi in the President's Office will email only each faculty member individually and copy the Chair and Dean. Faculty are not being asked to sign and return these letters. There were a couple of questions regarding the rationale for this. Dr. Smith noted that it was to streamline the process and take out the extra step in receiving paper.

-A great resource to stay up with what is going on is the PSU webpage for COVID-19 at <https://www.pittstate.edu/office/health-services/coronavirus/index.html> (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.) .

-Please continue to watch for the Daily Updates from Marketing and Communication in your email.

PSU/KNEA – Grant Moss, President

Dr. Siam expressed the gratitude of the faculty to outgoing PSU-KNEA President, Grant Moss. He also announced that the PSU-KNEA bargaining team has agreed to only negotiate salaries this year and postponing the negotiations on a three year contract till next year.

Student Senate – Alexis Houser, Representative

No report.

Unclassified Professional Senate – Brad Stefanoni, President

No report.

University Support Staff – Terry Pierce, President

Mr. Pierce shared that they had their April meeting via Teams. They will meet again on May 13th, likely on Teams.

Faculty Senate President – Kevin Bracker, President

Dr. Bracker shared the following comments: "As we work through the last Faculty Senate meeting of the year, I want to thank you all for the opportunity to serve as FS President this year. It has been an educational experience that has allowed me to get the chance to work with many colleagues across the university and the state of Kansas through KBOR meetings. Regardless of which specialties we are in, we all have the common goal of providing a transformational experience to our students and our community. It has been impressive watching the work each of you and our colleagues put into accomplishing that goal -- especially in light of the chaotic time we've been dealing with in 2020.

Cole Shewmake and I are currently working as members of the Academic Affairs Working Group on the Return to Campus for the fall. Both of us are in the Curriculum Design subgroup along with others such as Grant Moss, Kristi Frisbee, Susan Dellasega and Seth George. If you have input you'd like to share, please let one of us know. There are other subgroups looking at schedule, safety, and space concerns within the Academic Affairs Working Group.

My last KBOR meeting will be held virtually on May 20th (Cole will be joining as well).

I wish we would have been able to have traditional meetings for these last few meetings of the year and I know it has been a more challenging to be as productive without the personal interaction. Thank you for your service this year (as well as in previous and future years)."

Committee Reports

Academic Affairs – Steve Cox, Chair

No report. See agenda for annual report.

Undergraduate Curriculum – Nico Prelogar, Chair

Dr. Shewmake reported that the committee approved and recommends all curriculum items with the exception of the Data Analytics Certificate. All forms for the approved items can be found in the agenda. It was clarified that the legislation for the Data Analytics Certificate will go back to the College of Business with an opportunity to resubmit.

All curriculum items recommended by the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee were approved.

Library Services/Learning Resources – Gail Yarick, Chair

No report. See agenda for annual report.

Online and Distance Learning – Krissy Lewis, Chair

No report. See agenda for annual report.

Academic Honors – Janice Jewett, Chair

No Report. See agenda for annual report.

Honors College – Rebeca Book, Chair

No report. See agenda for annual report.

Writing Across the Curriculum – Alex Binder, Chair

No report. See agenda for annual report,

Diversity and Multicultural Affairs – Jason Reid, Chair

Mr. Reid announced that the committee completed the Pittsburg State University Diversity Survey. On Tuesday April 29th, Dr. Bracker, sent the survey to faculty by email on behalf of the committee. As of 9am May 5th, 2020, the survey had 134 responses. The results from these questions will be used to provide supporting documentation for Pittsburg State University's upcoming Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Accreditation. See agenda for additional details.

Student-Faculty – Daniel Maxwell, Chair

Dr. Maxwell presented the second read of the proposed Dead Week Policy. The proposal can be found in the agenda. Several concerns were raised:

- Adding that minimal new material should be presented in the last class session.
- The language used with "subject to change" in regards to dead week and final exams.
- The proposed policy does not match the stated intent, to provide additional time for students to review and prepare.
- Definition of "major assignments" and "finals".
- Reminder statements and their necessity.
- Dead week policy versus policy violation procedures.
- Ambiguity in policy violation procedures.

A motion to send the Dead Week Policy proposal back to the committee was approved.

See agenda for annual report.

All University Committee – Jennifer Harris, Chair

No report. See agenda for annual report.

Faculty Affairs – Andrea Kent-McConnaughey, Chair

No report.

Constitution Committee – Mark Johnson, Chair

No report. See agenda for annual report.

Pitt State Pathway Committee – Michelle Hudiburg, Chair

Dr. Hudiburg reported that the committee approved and recommends adding HONOR 200 to the Pitt State Pathway.

The motion was approved.

See agenda for annual report.

Budget Committee – Linden Dalecki, Chair

Dr. Dalecki shared that a committee member asked how PSU uses the meet-and-confer process as part of determining salary raises if any. Doug Ball affirmed that PSU does use the meet-and confer-process to identify raises for faculty. Mr. Ball mentioned that PSU does not finalize a budget until June, in part so that it can reflect the latest possible information from the meet-and-confer process.

In addition, a committee member asked about the \$5.3 million Federal CARES Act funds received by PSU. Doug Ball informed the committee that half these funds will be provided directly to students consistent with the requirements of the legislation. The other half of these funds will help to offset some of the additional expenses and lost revenues the University is incurring to date related to COVID-19. Mr. Ball reported that the \$5.3 million in Federal funding will not materially impact PSU's budget for next fiscal year.

See agenda for annual report.

Academic Honesty – Cole Shewmake, Chair

No report. See agenda for annual report.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

None.

Open Forum

None.

Meeting Adjourned Meeting adjourned Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.



Melinda Roelfs, Recording Secretary