

## **Minutes of the Salisbury University Faculty Senate**

October 7, 2014  
at Holloway Hall 119

**Senators Present:** Stephen Adams, Tom Anderson, Mark de Socio (Secretary), Jerome DeRidder, Stephen Ford (Webmaster), Lance Garmon, Darrell Mullins (VP), John Nieves, Brandye Nobiling, David Parker, David Rieck, Diallo Sessoms, Asif Shakur, Kathleen Shannon (President), Bart Talbert, Brent Zaprowski

**Call to Order (Faculty Senate President):** 3:31PM, quorum present

**Reading of Minutes** (Faculty Senate meeting of September 9, 2014)

— Minutes approved

### **Opening Remarks from the Faculty Senate President**

General Education Curriculum

- UCC is asking that the school curriculum committees start a conversation on GenEd including hybrid classes, enhancement and its meaning and implications, and flipped classrooms
  - School curriculum committees should look at what constitutes a credit in light of hybrid courses, flipped classrooms, enhancements, etc.

Next meeting of the Faculty Senate

- Our next meeting, scheduled October 21<sup>st</sup>, is officially cancelled in order to facilitate advising

Timeline for Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor

- I was asked if we could modify slightly the timeline for promotion (see documents) to make it clear that candidates applying for both tenure and promotion to Associate Professor may still apply for promotion separately if they choose to
  - I will clarify the request to chairs; while we would be happy to receive any input from departments on any part of the process, we really would like to know if there are any problems with this proposal or suggestions to improve it

**Announcement from Salisbury University's Chief Information Officer, Dr. Simeon Ananou**

- Last fall, we initiated a review of online classroom services technologies and products because our contract with Blackboard was be coming to an end; that process is now completed
- We are officially switching from Blackboard to Canvass
  - Thank you to the many Faculty who contributed to the process of reviewing and selecting a new vendor
  - 70% of the decision based on ease-of-use
  - Blackboard services will cease on June 30, 2015
  - During the Spring Semester 2015, we will have a Pilot Group to work with Canvass (the company) to aid in our transition to their system
- Discussion
  - The Pilot will be live for anyone who wishes to make the switch in the Spring
  - Nearly all classes will be transferable, but a small few may have to be re-built from scratch

### **Remarks from the Provost**

On hiring ‘Trailing Spouses’ of job candidates who are offered positions at Salisbury University

- The University tries to accommodate academic spouses, but never are there any guarantees that a spouse can or will be hired
- Most job candidates do not reveal that they have a spouse that they would like for the University to accommodate until they are offered a position
- Once a job candidates makes it known that they have a spouse and would like for them to be accommodated, the spouse is requested to provide a CV for the appropriate academic department to evaluate a need; departments often like to conduct interviews of the spouse

Review of General Education Curriculum

- We are currently revamping the university’s Strategic Plan; now is a good time to also review our General Education curriculum
- In fact, Goal One of our Strategic Plan is to evaluate the entire curriculum, including General Education and existing majors, to determine whether the curriculum continues to meet the demands of the contemporary workforce and an increasingly diverse student body
- Some current problems that we should explore:
  - Many students are awarded AP credits for ENG 103 and so are not required to take it; yet, that is where they learn about the severity of plagiarism
    - Same for students who transfer in from another college and are credited with ENG 103
  - Also, where is ‘diversity’ in our General Education program?

- I am proposing a process and structure (Steering Committee and Working Groups) similar to the Middle States Accreditation review process for reviewing our General Education curriculum (see documents)
  - The Steering Committee is to be comprised of the four school deans, the Director of the Honor’s Program, the Director of the Center for International Education, four members of the Faculty Senate (one from each school), and two Co-Chairs: a yet to be named faculty member and the Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs
  - The Steering Committee would “organize the review, task the working teams, develop guiding questions, review recommendations from working groups and provide a report to the Provost”
  - The Working Groups would be comprised of six full-time faculty, one each from Henson and Fulton, and four from Seidel and Perdue
  - The Working Groups would “gather information and input from faculty, answer questions posed by the steering committee related to general education at peer institutions, assessment, outcomes and structure; and provide recommendations to the steering committee”
- Discussion
  - If the Curriculum is the purview of the Faculty, why is the proposed Steering Committee comprised of six administrators (primarily deans) and five Faculty Senators?
    - Provost: The administrators are not the decision-makers; rather, they are to aid in guiding the review process
    - Provost: We can double the number of Senators if you prefer
  - Why not make the Steering Committee comprised entirely of Faculty?
    - Provost: Administrators also have a stake in the review process
  - Why are Senators on the Steering Committee, and not wider Faculty?
    - Provost: Senators are the voice of the Faculty
  - The Faculty Senate will review any recommendations anyway; why not open the Steering Committee to faculty volunteers? Also, Senators’ terms may run out during the review process
    - Provost: I am okay with opening up the Steering Committee to non-Senator full-time faculty members
  - The Library is not represented on the Steering Committee; the Provost agreed to add a representative from the Library
  - There should be some mechanism for selecting faculty for the Steering Committee and Working Groups, perhaps through Membership and Elections
  - Faculty Senate President requested that further discussion and deliberation on the Review of General Education Curriculum be tabled in order to conduct further Senate business
  - Tabled (Voice Vote)

## Proposed Confucius Institute

- The University has been asked if we are willing to host a Confucius Institute
- Interest has been expressed from members of the local community (for example, the Wicomico County Board of Education)
  - The proposed institute would primarily serve as a cultural exchange program, including the teaching of Mandarin Chinese at K12 institutions
- Confucius Institutes are funded by the Chinese government (Ministry of Public Education), so it would in essence be a partnership or contract with the Chinese government
  - This has been controversial at some institutions
  - The University of Chicago did not renew their institute, but the University of Maryland did recently renewed theirs
- If you have any thoughts on the matter, either ‘yes’ or ‘no’, please email the Provost
- Faculty are encouraged to do some research on Confucius Institutes on their own to learn about them
- Discussion
  - Perhaps the International Education Committee should look at this and make a recommendation; committee’s Designated Senator, Dr. Diallo Sessoms, agreed to do so

## Committee Reports:

Maryland Open Source Textbook Initiative: Brief update provided by Dr. Diallo Sessoms (see documents)

- There will be a workshop on using open source materials and there will be stipends available for faculty who wish to try using some; contact Dr. Diallo Sessoms for more information if you are interested
- Students like not having to pay the high cost of a textbook but miss the ancillary materials and support that frequently accompany textbooks
- There are no restrictions on who can participate
- In addition to the stipend, you could potentially write and submit your experience for publication

## Presentation on the University’s Budget by Chief Budget Officer Alan Selser

- Chief Budget Officer Alan Selser presented on the Budget; his PowerPoint presentation is available on the budget website ( <http://www.salisbury.edu/budget/budgetpres.html>)
- Overview of the sources of revenue the categories and percentages of expenditures: For example, 39% of the approximately \$172 million budget comes from tuition and fees, 24%

from State Appropriations, 30% from auxiliary operations, 7% from restricted funds (e.g. grants and contracts), and less than a percent from “other” . . . 57% or more of the outlay goes to salaries

- We vie now for the lowest per student funding with Towson; the next lowest gets \$1,300 more per student . . . Think what we could do with \$1,300 x 6000 students
  - VP Crockett assured us that the president works tirelessly to address this issue
  - It has its roots in historical funding patterns and the fact that budgets are always determined using past practice; however, SU President Dr. Dudley-Esbach has been successful in getting us a structural tuition increase which has funded just last year, 12 new faculty, \$350,000 in institutional based aid, and \$210,000 in faculty/staff equity adjustments
  - It is because of SU President’s efforts that we now have caught up with and perhaps slightly exceeded Towson in funding per student

**Old Business:**

Should we revisit/refine the charge to Membership & Elections Committee from last May? (see documents)

- Motion to table until next meeting
  - Motion passed (voice vote)

**Adjourned 5:00PM**