

Faculty Senate Minutes
April 25, 2017
Holloway Hall 119

Senators Present: Stephen Adams, Anita Brown, Thomas Calo, Thomas Cawthern (Webmaster), Douglas DeWitt, Chrys Egan (Secretary), Stephen Ford (President), Samuel Geleta (Vice President), Aaron Hogue, Kurt Ludwick, John Nieves, David Parker, David Rieck, Asif Shakur, Bart Talbert, Brent Zaprowski

Quorum: 16/19 Present

Call to Order: Faculty Senate President Stephen Ford, 3:30 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes – April 11, 2017 **Approved as amended**
2. Announcements from the Senate President
 - a. Standing Committee End-of-Year Reports, **Due May 9, 2017** – The committee chair is responsible that the report is submitted. Can be written by the chair or a designee. Reports should be sent to the Webmaster.
 - b. Senate Recommendations to the Provost – There were 6 more recommendations submitted for a total of 14 this academic year.
 - c. Green Fund Committee Request (Faculty Member) (see document) – Wayne Shelton sent notice that Vicky Pass from Art is stepping down from the committee and needs to be replaced. According to their constitution, the faculty member is appointed by Faculty Senate. President Ford is asking Senators to inform their constituents and forward names of any interested faculty to him, so that officers can review applicants and fill the vacancy.
 - d. Faculty Art Space in Dudley-Eshbach Faculty Center- President Dudley-Eshbach has agreed to fund the installation of a click-rail and direct lighting systems to hang faculty artwork. President Ford will shepherd the process through to completion.
 - e. 2017-18 Faculty First Fridays Socials (see document) – This idea was proposed by VP Sam Geleta and Secretary Chrys Egan in an effort to facilitate faculty interaction and to promote diversity and internationalization. The Provost and Interim Provost are in support of the socials. The proposed dates are: October 6, 2017; December 1, 2017; March 2, 2018; and May 4, 2018.
3. Remarks from Provost Allen – Provost indicates that these will be her final remarks before retiring as Provost. She thanks faculty for their work with her and looks forward to keeping in touch with SU.
 - a. Stephen Habay, Chemistry, won a Regent’s Award for teaching and Michele Schlehofer, Psychology, won Regent’s Award for public service. These are highly competitive honors.
 - b. SU Student Research Conference is Friday, April 28, 1:00 in Henson for oral presentations and GAC 6:00 for posters. There are 174 student presenters.
 - c. May 5 at 3:30 is Honors Convocation in Holloway Hall.
4. Committee Report
 - a. Gen Ed HEGIS Ad Hoc Committee Report (see document)

EDUC Gen Ed- Committee concluded that with the current structure of Gen Ed that EDUC to be included is not recommended.

Discussion: Randall Groth presents his reasons why EDUC is a social science for purposes of Gen Ed: EDUC content is social science, EDUC professors are social scientists, SU EDUC department has a National Science Foundation grant, SU EDUC students present at social science conferences. A Senator asked about the outcome of the ad-hoc committee vote and the reply was that the vote was unanimous. One Senator shares Groth's concerns and states that this sounds like a turf issue rather than content. Committee member states that EDUC would need a unique space in social science to be added to the Gen Ed category. Another committee questions the EDUC use of field work. The committee could only examine inclusion of the course, separate from UCC issues. UCC is in a position to not be able to change the structure of Gen Ed with "qualified" HEGIS code courses. Discussion includes the issue with FINA in previous years. Senator states that the committee decision is not about turf but about procedure and policy with a fair and unbiased committee. Would EDUC Gen Ed courses be offered to all students? The answer is that for pre-professional courses, any student could take approved Gen Ed EDUC courses. Committee member states that the key factor in rejecting EDUC is that it is not a unique social science. The system seems unfair to new programs held to a different standard than existing programs. The real problem with current Gen Ed is that categories are not defined. Approving EDUC now means changing everything in the new Gen Ed (if we revise it). There is a double standard that is systemic. Description is in the course catalogue.

Motion: Faculty Senate acknowledges receipt of the committee report and tables action until 2017-18 academic year. Motion passes unanimously.

5. Unfinished/Continuing Business

- a. 2016 State of Shared Governance Report (see document) – The Senate officers received the University System of Maryland summary report of all USM institutions. – The document shared is the public report and thus purposefully more vague. The Chancellor receives this report and the full report with all raw comments and concerns.
- b. Gen Ed Process and Learning Goals (see documents) – Dr. James King

Process - The General Education Steering Committee respectfully requests that the Faculty Senate endorse this committee's anticipated process to continue General Education evaluation.

1. Refine the General Education Student Learning Goals.
2. Articulate General Education Student Learning Outcomes related to each goal.
3. Organize the goals and outcomes language into descriptive program focus areas.
4. Use goals and outcomes language to develop First Year Experience and Themed Integrated Courses.
5. Develop a General Education Course Application process using goals and outcomes as criteria to identify courses that may comprise General Education.
6. **Suggestion: Add step 6 for a final all-faculty vote.**

Discussion: Concerns raised over what acknowledging this process means. The hope is that once steps are accepted that the GESC moves forward. Suggestion to change *endorse* to *acknowledge*.

Motion: Faculty Senate supports this process with the addition of a step 6 for a final all-faculty vote and the word change from *endorse* to *acknowledge*. Motion passes unanimously.

Note: May 2 is the final special Senate meeting for General Education at which we will review the second, revised Student Learning Goals document and be given a review of the new Gen Ed Canvas site. May 3, 12-3 in the GAC Assembly Hall is the SU student Gen Ed roundtable discussion.

6. New Business

- a. SU Student Bereavement Policy (see documents) – Lael Kelley, SGA VP Univ. Affairs
Salisbury University recognizes that students may experience the death of a loved one during the course of an academic term. To promote the general mental health of students, this policy establishes formal guidelines for grieving students to be excused from classes and to make-up work so they can be with their loved ones in times of death and grief. Grieving a loved ones' passing should not be an impediment to academic progress.

SGA conducted a survey with 1400 student participations, where 70% of students supported Bereavement Policy as necessary. SGA investigated policies at 5 institutions. SGA created a policy that they shared with Senate Officers, Academic Deans, and Student Affairs. Kelley shared testimonials from the survey.

Discussion- Penalties for missed classes are a teacher's prerogative. The university does not have excused absences. We did once have excused absences. Wording about Incomplete needs revising. Faculty member commented that he believes most faculty would honor this policy. SGA students remark that there is a need and that some students face difficulties with faculty. Who verifies that the student is telling the truth? Suggestion given to have the policy go to Faculty Welfare Committee. Suggestion given to move the form online. Question asked about if the policy is retroactive. Office of Student Affairs used to notify faculty of serious issues with students and some faculty were comfortable with that policy, but the office no longer does this. This change puts burden on faculty to judge issues and for students to disclose personal information. List of relationship titles is fairly extensive. Question about the travel time and number of days. One faculty comments that it actually takes the burden off faculty and sends it to appropriate offices. One Dean indicates that she believes the process of going to academic deans makes sense since they work with the advising coordinators. A faculty member questions the need for the policy. General consensus is that the faculty support, but want revision.

Motion: Faculty Senate requests that the Faculty Welfare Committee review the SU Student Bereavement Policy proposal and report back in the fall 2017 term. Motion passes unanimously.

- b. Graduate Council vis-à-vis Faculty Senate (tabled) – The Graduate Council *reports to* the Faculty Senate but is not a committee *of* the Faculty Senate. GC and FS retain similar items

across both governing bodies such as curricular procedures but maintain differences such as grade structures.

Discussion: UCC changed its name to cover only undergraduates once there was a Graduate office, distinct curriculum and different policies, but the Faculty Senate is the only body that speaks for the faculty. Chair of Grad Council is Senator Doug DeWitt.

- c. College of Graduate Studies (tabled) (see document) – Dr. Anita Brown. Proposal to create College of Graduate Studies and the process. This unit is called for in SU’s Strategic Plan with Graduate Council working on it all year. The proposal now is to approve Graduate Council to move forward with the full proposal to present to Faculty Senate next year.

Motion: Faculty Senate requests that the Graduate Council move forward to create a full proposal to present to the Faculty Senate about a proposed College or School of Graduate Studies. Motion passes unanimously.

- d. Committee on Promotions Charge (see document) Tabled
- e. Honors College Policies & Procedures Revision (see document) Tabled
- f. Anything else?

7. Adjournment at 5:10 p.m.