

Minutes of the Salisbury University Faculty Senate

April 21, 2015, 3:30-5 p.m.

at Holloway Hall 119

Senators Present: Stephen Adams, Jerome DeRidder, Stephen Ford (Webmaster), Lance Garmon, Ross Leasure, Darrell Mullins (VP), John Nieves, Brandye Nobiling, David Parker, David Rieck, Diallo Sessoms, Asif Shakur, Kathleen Shannon (President), Bart Talbert, Leslie Yarmo, Brent Zaprowski

Call to Order (Faculty Senate President): 3:30PM, quorum present

Approval of Minutes (Faculty Senate meeting of April 7, 2015)

— Minutes approved

Announcements from the Faculty Senate President

Nominations for open school seats

— The Membership and Elections Committee has opened the online nomination process for open school seats for senators and committees. Once nominations close, then faculty vote on nominees. This will be quickly followed by nomination and voting for at-large open seats, with all to be finished before the last meeting of the year on May 5, 2015. Please look for those emails from M&E Chair Lisa Marquette and encourage your colleagues to nominate and vote. The change-over on April 1, 2015 to the new Content Management Server (CMS) for webpage design and development caused both a later than usual start of the process and a shorter nomination and voting window for each step.

The next meeting on May 5, 2015 will be the last of the year

— In addition to the normal business of welcoming newly elected senators and committee members, we will elect officers for the next year. On the agenda, we will receive a report from ad-hoc group reviewing the proposal to add FINA as an appropriate social science general education area. Please contact the senate president ASAP, no later than Friday, if you have other agenda items you wish to discuss.

Remarks from the Provost

Departure Announcement

— Associate Provost Melanie Perreault has accepted the Provost position at Buffalo State University in New York. We are happy for her although we are very sad to see her go. She will remain at SU until July, unless the Provost can delay her departure (she joked). A call for nominations for an internal interim replacement for the Associate Provost position will be forthcoming, hopefully this week, along with details of the selection process. The wish is to name someone before Melanie leaves to help with the transition. Afterward, a search committee will be formed for a national search for a permanent Associate Provost. Melanie

is still working diligently on the draft of the Middle States Self Study, along with Kara Siegert, and they should be finished by the time she leaves.

Transitional Retirement Leave (TRL)

- This is a retirement option passed by the USM Board of Regents two years ago and was a response to IRS tax compliance issues with the terminal leave policy that had been in place forever. Apparently, under the terminal leave policy, all taxes on money received would be due when the paperwork was signed, well in advance of the receipt of the money. SU had not been in compliance with this ruling. As a response, the System worked on an incentive policy to create a smoother transition option that would be in compliance. The TRL is available only to tenure track faculty or permanent status faculty librarians and entails either one semester or one academic year of full pay for 25% of the work with the written agreement to retire at the end of it. Those granted TRL cannot go over one academic year and cannot cross over academic years. One must apply with support from one's chair, Dean, Provost and President, and then be approved by the Attorney General. Negotiating what faculty will do during this time is the most difficult part as the System is tough and requires detailed specificity on this part. This is not for everyone. Faculty can still retire as usual, if they wish.
- The Provost has 14 applications for transitional leave submitted already, although she indicated that this is the first time she has mentioned the policy. She provided a procedures handout and indicated that it will be included in the new re-write of the faculty handbook.

Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)

- Provost has heard nothing new on this issue.

Student Research Conference

- SU is hosting the 14th SU Student Research Conference (SUSRC) this year on Friday, April 24. The Provost encourages us to go and support our students, as they are brave and deserve our support.

Old Business

Status of English Language Institute (ELI) faculty with respect to the Faculty Senate*

- A motion was presented to clarify in the bylaws that ELI faculty, or any other continuing education faculty hired down the road, will have representation on the Faculty Senate as at-large members, since they have no affiliation with the four schools or the library. The senate passed the motion.
- ELI faculty spoke up, worried about appropriateness of at-large positions on some committees and the lack of availability on other committees of interest. They specifically mentioned the International Education Committee (IEC) on which they would like to serve, but that under current bylaws has no at-large position for them. It was mentioned that an IEC bylaw language change was recently approved by senate to remedy the exclusion of

librarian faculty (will shortly be voted on by the full faculty) and that a similar bylaw change proposal to create an at-large position on the IEC can be proposed next year.

- A secondary motion was made to amend bylaw language to exclude these faculty from serving on certain Faculty Senate committees because they deal with university programs in which they do not teach. The excluded committees include the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, the Academic Policies Committee, the Long Range Academic Planning Committee, the Admissions Readmissions Committee and the University Academic Assessment Committee. The senate passed the motion.

New Business

Proposal to amend the Summer Advisory Committee (SAC) resolution

- A motion was made to change the language of the SAC resolution to allow elected senators *within the last 5 years* to represent a school. Some discussion ensued about lengthening that time frame but came to nothing as recentness of service was most desirable. The senate passed the motion.
- The 2015 SAC membership includes Tom Anderson, Mark DeSocio, Danny Ervin, Stephen Ford and Diallo Sessoms.

Under what circumstances, if any, might a full faculty vote taken electronically be appropriate on an issue? Can we use electronic voting but preserve deliberation and a sense of the collective faculty will?

- Discussion opened on this topic and centered on the deliberative nature of senate decisions. Some believe that in order to cast a vote on an issue, one must be present at the meeting in which the issue is discussed and that those who are not in attendance will not be adequately informed. Others believe that one should not be required to be in attendance at the meeting where the issue is deliberated in order to cast a vote and that private conversations and discussion of the issue with colleagues can adequately inform them of the issue. One suggestion was to hold several meetings at different days/times to allow for greater participation, given hectic and conflicting schedules, that others at a distance could be allowed to Skype into these meetings and that electronic voting could then be done afterward (among those attending and with a necessary quorum).
- It was decided that some of the issues of this discussion had been identified, but that more debate or action was needed than we had time for in this meeting. Therefore a motion to adjourn was made, and seconded.

Adjourned 4:40PM

Respectfully submitted: Stephen Ford