

Faculty Senate
Minutes: February 12, 2002

Senators Attending: C. Bowden, E. Curtin, J. DeRidder, J. Files, K. Khazeh, R. Long, D. Marshall, J. McCallops, R. McKenzie, M. O'Loughlin, D. Rieck, K. Shannon, D. Whaley

1. Announcements: Rich McKenzie

The Fulton School and Seidel School Dean searches are creating conflicts with regularly scheduled Senate meetings. The Senate, however, will meet when there is significant business to conduct.

2. Provost Comments: Kent Kimmel (speaking for Dr. Buchanan)

Dr. Kimmel provided a budget update. We should not expect a significant (or perhaps any) increase in state appropriations. Until the state legislature completes its hearings, however, we won't have specifics.

A cost analysis of the proposed general education models should be completed soon. A report will be forthcoming.

The Board of Regents has completed a draft of an intellectual property policy. We will have until the end of the semester to address any concerns. If we do not address concerns, the Board's policy will take effect.

The BOR has also created a new Drug and Alcohol policy that does not include faculty. Thus, the "sensitive position" status that currently hangs over the heads of certain faculty will disappear.

Dr. Kimmel is working on a system report that compares current SU policies for full and part time non-tenure track faculty to system "best practices." Except for the fact that SU does not provide these people with benefits, the institution generally employs these system defined "best practices."

The SU administration imposed a hiring freeze effective 2/6/02. The freeze excludes teaching faculty and deans.

3. Minutes:

The 11/20 and 12/11 minutes were approved.

4. Membership and Elections: Diane Davis

The Membership and Elections Committee tested web-based voting during the Fall semester. The system apparently worked well so it was used to record

the voting of a referendum during December/January. However, a diligent faculty member discovered a serious flaw in the system that corrupted the results of this referendum. The committee believes that this flaw has been fixed and asked the Senate to allow them to hold a web-based vote (using the new process) to re-do the referendum vote and to elect an at-large senator to fill a vacancy. A motion was made and seconded to allow the use of web-based voting. The Senate passed the motion. (11 for, 0 against, 1 abstention.)

5. Benefits for Full-time Faculty: David Rieck

Dr. Rieck made the following motion.

The Senate asks that the President and Provost develop a plan to provide full benefits for all full-time faculty members and make this plan public as soon as possible. The administration is also asked to report back to the Senate within one week to give an estimate of how long it will take to develop this plan.

The Senate passed the motion with 11 for, 0 against, and 1 abstention.

6. Sabbatical Guidelines: Lisa Seldomridge

Dr. Seldomridge, representing the Faculty Welfare Committee, asked the Senate for guidance on the issue of faculty continuing to serve on committees while on sabbatical. Following discussion, Dr. Shannon moved that:

“The Senate ask the Faculty Welfare Committee to draft language indicating that committee service while on sabbatical is only acceptable if this service directly relates to the sabbatical project and to recommend to the provost that this language be included in the sabbatical policy and on the sabbatical form in the Faculty Handbook.”

The motion was seconded and approved unanimously with 12 members voting.

7. Bylaws Change for Selection of Senate President: Rich McKenzie

A motion was made charging the Senate Executive Committee with drafting a Bylaws amendment so that the Senate’s Vice President succeeds the Senate’s President.

The motion was seconded and passed by a unanimous vote with 12 voting.

8. Bylaws Change Regarding Approved Working for Executive Committee Membership: Rich McKenzie

There was discussion regarding the role of the Senate Webmaster. The Executive Committee will consider the issue and draft language for a bylaws change to include the Webmaster on the Executive Committee.

9. Evaluation of Administrative Offices: Rich McKenzie

In response to faculty concerns, the Executive Committee will determine the best method for gathering information and exploring the possibilities of giving faculty members a mechanism to evaluate those who work in administrative offices.

10.Upcoming Bylaws Changes: Jim McCallops

Dr. McCallops reminded everyone that we still have several ad hoc committees. These committees were charged last year with considering their charges and either recommending that they be disbanded or drafting language to include the committees in the Senate Bylaws. The Senate had agreed to provide such language by February 15. Although some committees have submitted bylaws, there are also some who have not. Dr. McCallops needs the language ASAP.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
David Rieck