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Faculty Senate Minutes

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8-27-2020

Faculty Senate Minutes, Academic Year 2020-2021, August 27, 2020

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**Governors State University Faculty Senate
August 27, 2020, 1:00-3:00PM, Zoom
Minutes**

Senators in Attendance:

X	R. Muhammad (AL/CAS)	X	T. Gsell (CAS)		G. Grumbach (CHHS)
	A Vujaklija (AL/COE)*	X	C. White (CAS)	X	S. Spencer (CHHS)
X	D. Golland (AL/CAS)*	X	C. Vanderpool (COB)	X	C. Tymkow (CHHS)*
X	K. Boland-Prom (AL/CHHS)*	X	A. Keane (COB)*	X	S. Wadhwa (CHHS)
X	S. Wagner (AL/COB)	X	W. Kresse (COB)*	X	M. Zell (CHHS/GEC)*
	X. Chen (CAS)	X	S. Cervantes (COE)	X	J. Sopiartz (UL)*
X	J. Vining (CAS)*	X	S. Patrick (COE)*	X	T. Kerns (Unit B/COB)*
	N. Ermasova (CAS)	X	A. Cipra (COE)	X	B. Winicki (Emeritus)
X	P. Guimond (CAS)	X	M. Cummings (COE)	X	C. Tweddle (CAS/GEC) ⁺
	D. James (CAS)	X	F. Fulambarker (CHHS)*		

* 2019-20 Faculty Senate Executive Committee, Standing Committee Chairs

⁺Non-voting

Others Present: C. Green, P. Bylaska, E. Cada, C. Sexton, W. Davis

- I. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda. Golland called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. Motion made to approve agenda. No objections. Motion carries. Agenda.
- II. Introduction by Dr. Golland.
- III. Approval of Standing Rules, as amended. (Kresse) Motion made to approve the amendments to the Standing Rules. Seconded. Approved unanimously. Discussion on scrivener's error with regard to capitalization of the word "Senate" in the document.
- IV. External Reports
 - A. University Administration (Green/Cada//Sexton/Bylaska/Davis)
 - (Green) This is her eighth week of her tenure on campus as president of GSU. She has been working since starting on campus to deal with the pandemic, prepare for fall campus opening, negotiate with UPI, and deal with campus resources.
 - Dr. Green gave thanks to the faculty for their flexibility and cooperation.

- She is conducting special meetings across campus to learn about GSU. She has met with the Faculty Senate four times so far, including today.
- She encouraged members to participate in three campus committees – the Strategic Planning Committee, the Strategic Enrollment Management Leadership Team, and a new committee, the COVID-19 Impact Planning Team. The COVID-19 Impact Planning Team is not a replacement for the Emergency Response Team. Strengthen work on longer term basis.
- (Cada) Campus has been very busy. Leadership of the Faculty Senate is valued and important when everything is so unpredictable.
- She thanked the Faculty Senate for their contributions and work.
- Dr. Cada recommended that faculty review the document related to policy changes for grading through Policy 26 and Policy 6 in the packet.
- She thanked the Faculty Senate and Executive Committee on working on updating the temporary policy adjustments for the COVID.
- (Sexton) She thanked faculty who participated in the Virtual Fall Institute.
- CAES is sending out an email with videos of the Fall Institute sessions, information about the South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium (SMHEC) Annual Conference, which will be on October 9th, and a free virtual conference called the Connected Faculty Summit.
- (Bylaska) Thanked the Faculty Senate for the invitation to participate in the Senate-Administration Retreat and Awards Luncheon on Tuesday. He hoped that he and Professor Kresse presented enough information to keep the faculty informed and curious about PBAC's work.
- He has been extremely busy over last few months getting campus ready for fall. The situation changes on daily/hourly basis.
- Dr. Bylaska directed senators to page 28 of packet, which shows signage changes related to social distancing, face coverings, and other issues on campus.
- The University has adopted new technologies, including using Zoom and Webex. Microsoft Teams is also being investigated. He would prefer to settle on one product for cost savings.
- The University's budget is still balanced. He remains hopeful that Governor's budget and appropriations will be appropriate. A rainy day fund is still available. His office is trying to be careful and conservative in budgeting.
- ITS has provided communications about laptop loaner program for employees. This program has been quite successful. Student laptop loaner program has also been successful.
- Discussion regarding issues related to Webex performance.
- Discussion regarding temporary policy adjustments and grading policy changes.
- Discussion regarding candidates for the Vice President of Human Resources search.
- (Davis) Thanked the Faculty Senate for the student scholarships it created that were funded by faculty.
- Due to technical difficulties, Dr. Davis will send a written report.

V. Closed Session. Motion to move to closed session. Moved and seconded. Motion carries by roll call vote. Closed session began at 1:30 p.m. Motion to adjourn closed session. Moved and seconded. Motion carries without objection. Closed session ends at 2:33 p.m.

- VI. Seating of Executive Committee. (Golland) Motion made to seat the 2020-2021 Executive Committee members. The Executive Committee members from each college are Dr. J. Vining (CAS); Professor Tricia Kerns (COB); Dr. S. Patrick (COE); Dr. F. Fulambarker (CHHS); and Dr. J. Sopiartz (UL). Seconded. Approved.
- VII. Old Business: Approval of Previous Minutes. Motion made to approve the May Senate Minutes. Seconded. Amendment offered to change Dr. Muhammad's college to the College of Arts and Sciences. Approved as amended.
- VIII. Reports
- A. Committees
1. Executive (Golland)
 - a. Appointments to Vacancies.
 - Moved and seconded by Executive Committee.
 - Dr. Boland-Prom raised an objection for the record as to the procedures for filling vacancies on Faculty Senate committees. While she thanked and respects her colleagues, all of whom perform their duties ethically, she believes that the procedure by which the Executive Committee appoints volunteers to fill vacancies lacks transparency. Vacancies would be better filled by an election. The current system for filling vacancies is flawed. While she does not have any objections to the faculty members appointed to fill these vacancies, she will abstain from voting on the motion based on her objection. Discussion held on this topic.
 - Motion approved: votes in favor – 15; opposed – 0; abstentions – 2.
 - b. Resolutions
 - Resolution UFS 2020-21 No. 2 (A Resolution concerning the Process for the Replacement of College Deans and Division/Department Chairs) is withdrawn and will be reconsidered at Executive Committee meeting in September.
 - Resolutions USF 2020-21 No. 1 (A Resolution regarding the Institutional Review Board), No. 3 (A Resolution concerning a Statement of Principles regarding Shared Governance in the Staffing of Committees), which will be amended to be No. 2, and No. 4 (A Resolution Renaming the Faculty Development Committee the Faculty Professional Development Committee), which will be amended to be No. 3, were previously moved and seconded by Executive Committee. Approved.
 - c. Proposed Bylaws amendments discussion. These will return to the Faculty Senate in September. Senators should send the Faculty Senate officers any concerns or potential amendments to the Bylaws before next Thursday's Executive Committee meeting, if possible.
 2. Policies (Boland-Prom)
 - IPC will meet in September. No controversial issues are anticipated.
 3. Program Review (Vujaklija)
 - a. Expansion Seats
 - Two expansion seats for APRC have been moved and seconded by APRC. While the expansion seats are for one year each, appointments to those seats will appear as two-year terms. The expansion seats must be renewed every year by vote in the Faculty Senate.
 - No objection. Approved.

b. Appointments

- Dr. J. Zhang and Dr. Q. Martin were nominated to fill the expansion seats on APRC. Moved and seconded by the Executive Committee. Approved.

4. General Education (Zell/Tweddle)

- The General Education Council is resuming activities. A new member will be joining from the College of Business, Dr. C. Alston. First meeting in September.

IX. New Business

- Dr. Winicki pointed out an error on the Roster in packet. That version of the roster will be corrected and updated.
- Dr. Boland-Prom thanked Dr. Golland and Officers for the Senate-Administration Retreat and Awards Luncheon. It was run very well and acknowledging faculty for their service is a very good practice.
- Dr. Golland thanked Dr. Boland-Prom and Dean Zhao, Professor Kresse and Dr. Bylaska, and Dr. Tymkow and Dean Marak for their presentations at the Retreat.
- Dr. Vanderpool commented that the College of Business had a meeting about pros and cons about consistency across sections of courses on plus/minus grading. Individual academic freedom is very important. She asked, what is the evidence that consistency across sections is desired? She encouraged the administration and others to collect evidence during this academic year to determine whether differences in grading across sections of the same course result in student complaints or other problems.
- Dr. Tymkow responded that the issue of consistency in grading across sections came to the UCC because people were contacting UCC to mediate a discussion. It is the position of UCC that the committee should not mediate this discussion. Use of plus/minus grading is up to faculty. Programs need to mediate internally if there is a conflict. A courses only needs to be submitted to UCC if it has not been reviewed in last five years. UCC does not need to see syllabi with only changes to the grading rubric.

X. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.