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Faculty Senate Minutes

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1-21-2021

### **Faculty Senate Minutes, Academic Year 2020-2021, January 21, 2021**

Faculty Senate

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**Governors State University Faculty Senate  
January 2021, 1:00-3:00PM, Zoom  
Minutes**

**Senators in Attendance:**

X	R. Muhammad (AL/CAS)	X	T. Gsell (CAS)	X	G. Grumbach (CHHS)
X	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)*		A. Keane (COB)*	X	S. Wadhwa (CHHS)
X	S. Wagner (AL/COB)	X	W. Kresse (COB)*		M. Zell (CHHS/GEC)*
	X. Chen (CAS)	X	S. Azmy (COE)	X	J. Sopiarcz (UL)*
X	J. Vining (CAS)*	X	S. Cervantes (COE)	X	T. Kerns (Unit B/COB)*
X	N. Ermasova (CAS)	X	A. Cipra (COE)	X	B. Winicki (Emeritus)
X	P. Guimond (CAS)	X	M. Cummings (COE)*	X	C. Tweddle (CAS/GEC) <sup>+</sup>
X	D. James (CAS)	X	A. Fulambarker (CHHS)*		

\* 2020-21 Faculty Senate Executive Committee, Standing Committee Chairs

<sup>+</sup>Non-voting

*Others Present:* C. Green, B. Cada, P. Bylaska, M. Tyler, J. Kroger, S. Estep

- I. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda. Golland called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Motion made to approve agenda as amended. Agenda approved unanimously as submitted.
- II. Presentation: Benjamin Ginsberg, *The Fall of the Faculty*. Deferred to February 2021.
- III. External Reports
  - A. University Administration (Green/Cada/Bylaska)
    - (Green) Wished everyone a “Happy Spring!” She noted that the university had a successful fall semester with the anticipation of a successful spring term. There had been due diligence to keep the university operating as expected.

- Dr. Green said she enjoyed attending all the college meetings and is eager to respond to invitations and anxious to meet in person with individuals and programs.
- The University is proceeding with search for chief diversity officer. The process will include a Campus Climate Survey and work with the HR and General Counsel's team. Will Davis is now chairing the committee. There are currently 15 members on this diverse committee including faculty, staff, and students.
- The University is also moving forward with search for Director of Compliance. The University will be looking at compliance as a value at GSU and at risk factors that expose the university to avoid problems in future. Want focus to be on academics and programs and serving the community and not want our energy to be spent on be reactive to problems that could have been prevented.
- Therese Nohos is the acting supervisor until Director of Human Resources is selected.
- Commencement: Dr. Green was disappointed that based on current statistics and levels of the virus, she could not announce an outside commencement at this time. The Commencement is likely to be virtual. It will not be a celebration; it will be a commencement with the full ceremony. She has talked with vendors supported by commencement committee to customize the ceremonies. Later in March it will be determined if we can do a commencement celebration outside.
- COVID-19: The University continues to work with Will County and IDPH for testing. A vaccination plan for GSU is coming by the end of month according to Dr. Green's discussion with Will County. Advocacy is going on to include professors in the 1B Tier.
- Advising: Dr. Green has had conversations with the Provost, Dr. Golland, and others on campus regarding the advising process. Where there are inefficiencies, she will be looking at it to improve the outcome. She recently completed a 5-month tenure with Equity Workgroup for improving achievement outcome for blacks in the state of Illinois. One outcome noted in the workgroup was aggressive and proactive advising.
- (Cada) The Provost wished the Senate a "Happy New Year!" She thanked all for the continued service, scholarship, and teaching. Dr. Cada gave especial thanks to the work of committees and expressed appreciation to faculty for their outreach to students.
- The University is starting a GEER funded project for students who need additional support. Contact Corey Williams, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students, for more information. GSU hopes to serve 300 students and has already approved applications of 200 students.
- Thank you for continued work and collaboration with CAES Center to continue to support online instruction during the pandemic.
- Professional Development day was exciting. Kudos to the committee.
- (Bylaska) So far GSU has been successful in opening the campus with hybrid and remote learning. We thank essential workers. The University will send reminders regarding social distancing and other requirements.

- The University is working on continuing air quality through the installation of HEPA filters in places where face to face activity takes place and contracting for MERV filters to additionally mitigate air quality thru air conditioning and heating.
- Thanks to PBAC for their service. There will be no increase in tuition. There will be a 3.5% increase in dorm fees. Current students will not be affected by the increase. The recommendation was approved unanimously. There will be some increase in program fees for selected programs. The Student Senate also recommended that fees be brought forward to the Board of Trustees.
- We will begin vaccinations as soon as we hear from Will County. There is a survey distributed by Will County to help them assess the need. Bylaska encourage all to access the survey and fill it out as it will help in determining GSU's need for vaccinations.
- There are currently 18 applicants for Compliance Director. Dr. Vining is a member of the committee and his service is appreciated.
- GSU received good news about the CARES funding. We are expected to receive \$4.5 million and another \$1.8 million for direct benefit of students. The criteria are strict and the timeframe is short for spending. Like any grant, this funding is subject to audit. GSU is currently working with auditors on this to determine the expending of funds.
- Dr. Golland asked whether we can get together to have our auxiliary advisory committee. Dr. Bylaska responded yes.
- Discussion held regarding the vaccine. If professors are determined to be categorized as 1B will they be vaccinated at GSU or in their home county?  
Response: GSU has signed an MOU which will bring Will County personnel on campus, and may allow nursing faculty to administer the vaccine. Dr. Bylaska stated he believes there would not be obstacles to vaccinating those that are here. Dr. Cada talked with Dr. Spencer and nursing staff and noted that since nursing students are licensed, they could also assist.
- Dr. Green just received an email from the County Board. Doug Pryor advised that Region 7 - Will and Kankakee counties will move to Level 4 mitigation today. This would allow for indoor dining and meetings up to 25 would be allowed. She encouraged going to website for further details.
- Dr. Golland welcomed Dr. Azmy who has been appointed as acting senator from the College of Education to fill Dr. Patrick's vacancy.
- Discussion was held regarding clarification of the Will County vaccination registration survey. Dr. Bylaska stated, hopefully, those not in the county but who are on GSU campus would be included in the vaccination plans without having to state one's residence on the registration survey.
- Discussion held about Prairie Place and housing costs. GSU has lost some residents, 165 down to 108. Dr. Green stated she does not know how we could compare to other campuses and that we controlled the number to keep social distancing. We did not lose residential students, but rather controlled the rate. She also noted that is normal to have less residents in spring than fall.
- Dr. Kresse noted that the Will County registration form does say that this is for students of Will County and attending a university in Will County. Bylaska

responded that an advisory message may include that as well as other information on COVID.

B. University Professionals of Illinois (Estep)

- UPI, IFT, and AFT are working actively on getting GSU faculty included in the Tier 1B vaccination round.
- Emergency fund money is coming to UPI. The fund has \$5,000 from AFT funds and \$5,000 from Dr. Green. An additional \$1,800 has been donated. There are currently 300 applicants for less than \$15,000 dollars now available.
- UPI is working on elections. Faculty were encouraged to think about running and to be in the House of Delegates. Information about election will be available shortly.
- Dr. Estep reported that certain faculty noted that the new syllabus statements are not timely, and many have already posted the prior statements in their courses. If there are changes, Dr. Tymkow said she would check with Dr. Sexton regarding the statements and the issues of timeliness.

C. Student Senate (Tyler)

- President Tyler wished Happy New Year to the Faculty Senate.
- Student Senate met with PBAC to discuss tuition and fees proposal.
- The Student Senate is looking forward to spring elections for the Student Senate.
- Hosting first talking circle of the year on February 5 to help students ease into the academic year with the help of their panelists..

D. Civil Service Senate (Jones-Harper)

- There was no report. Dr. Golland informed the Faculty Senate that Ms. Jones-Harper could not receive permission from her supervisor to be released from her job duties for Senate attendance during this two hour period. Dr. Green responded that she would investigate this issue

IV. Closed Session. Motion to move to closed session. Moved and seconded. Motion carries by roll call vote. Closed session began at 1:57 p.m. Motion to adjourn closed session. Moved and seconded. Motion carries without objection. Closed session ends at 2:40 p.m.

V. Old Business. Approval of Previous Minutes. Motion to approve the November Senate Minutes. Second. Approved.

VI. Internal Reports

A. Committees

1. Executive (Golland) Pages 21-22 of the Executive Report are pertinent sections. There were no questions.
2. Curriculum (Tymkow)
  - Discussion held on issue of certificate in the Division of Education. It was noted that the language has been problematic since language for the purpose of licensure in IBHE is different than that commonly used for the purpose of transcripts. Dr. Tymkow noted that the issue was discussed with Dr. Sexton who clarified the difference at a recent Curriculum meeting. (See Curriculum Report from 1-21-21.)
3. Policies (Boland-Prom)
  - Discussion held on action on Policies 2 and 3. Dr. Boland-Prom will review the status and report.
4. Program Review (Vujaklija)

- The APRC will have its regular meeting on Thursday, January 28th.
  - The Center for Community media is moving forward. The Center supports media programs, podcasts, and other media forms. Dr. James can answer additional questions.
  - Dr. Sexton joined the meeting to inform new members.
  - Cyclical reports are due in February. The APRC's busiest time is February and March.
5. General Education (Zell/Tweddle)
- First meeting will be next Wednesday, January 27, from 12-2 PM.
- B. Optional
1. Illinois Board of Higher Education (Cummings)
- Reports from the faculty advisory council will be discussed when they come in. All are encouraged to review and share any insights.
2. Graduate Studies Council (Gsell/Golland)
- At the January 7 meeting, Dr. Morris asked that students who need remedial writing be instructed to enroll in English 2910.
  - The Mental Health Advisory was formalized as a committee for Graduate students. Dr. Pedigo is on the committee.
  - There has been progress on the Psychology Doctorate proposal.
  - With regard to counseling self-study, Dr. Dermer has hired a consultant, Dr. Can, to help Dr. Ahmet in completing the self-study for accreditation.
  - Student holds were discussed, but there were no specific details reported.
  - Admitting students under advanced standing was discussed, but there were no conclusions reached among the related issues of dual credit and stackable degrees. Dr. Boland-Prom gave an example of what occurs in Social work.
3. Student Health and Well-Being.
- Dr. Vujaklija recommended that we have someone from the Counseling and Wellness Center discuss the status of referrals and other related issues at a future Senate meeting.
4. Professional Development (Cervantes)
- Kudos to the committee for the hard work. The session turned out well. The committee meets again next Wednesday, January 27. The committee decided on a Doodle poll to next meetings versus every week. Golland noted the reason for regular meetings times is so that all who are elected and involved are not left out, and prospective members can seek seats based on knowledge of meeting times.
5. Enrollment Management (Tymkow/Vujaklija)
- The smaller committees are continuing to meet. The next meeting of the Enrollment Leadership Team is scheduled for February.

## VII. New Business

### A. Proposed Bylaws Amendment

- Discussion was held on this proposed amendment only. Voting next meeting.
- The proposed amendment replaces the proposed policy on policies which the administration feels is procedural. Senate wants it codified. Therefore, we want it in bylaws to ensure current practice. There was no objection to the idea; further

discussion and vote will occur at the next Senate meeting. Dr. Golland urged Senators to send suggestions and concerns to him prior to the Executive Committee meeting.

B. Administrative Policies Committee

- APC did not meet.
- The next meeting is Monday, January 25.
- Senator Vanderpool plans to present the new naming policy which is currently being treated as a public policy. Senators were asked for comments.
- In the future, the APC report should come during executive report.

VIII. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m.