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Faculty Senate Minutes

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2-18-2021

Faculty Senate Minutes, Academic Year 2020-2021, February 18, 2021

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**Governors State University Faculty Senate
February 18, 2021, 1:00pm, Hall of Honors**

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)*	X	A. Keane (COB)*	X	S. Wadhwa (CHHS)
X	S. Wagner (AL/COB)	X	W. Kresse (COB)*	X	M. Zell (CHHS/GEC)*
X	J. Goode (CAS) Goode	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)+
	D. James (CAS)	X	A. Buehler (CHHS)*		

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

+Non-voting

Faculty Present: U. Rajadhyaksha, C. Harris, L. Sampson

Others Present: B. Ginsberg, C. Green, B. Cada, C. Sexton, P. Bylaska, M. Tyler, S. Estep

- I. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda. Golland called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Motion made to approve agenda as amended. Agenda approved unanimously as submitted.
- II. Presentation: Benjamin Ginsberg, *The Fall of the Faculty*
 - Dr. Golland introduced Dr. Ginsberg.
 - Dr. Ginsberg made a presentation on his book, *The Fall of the Faculty*.
 - Question raised by Dr. Golland and discussion held on administrative work done by faculty and administration at GSU.
 - Motion made to extend this portion of the agenda by 10 minutes. No objection. So extended.

- Question raised by Dr. Wagner and discussion held on where the increased administration of the university has come from, external or internal changes.
- Question raised by Dr. Kresse and discussion held on differences between state and private universities.
- Faculty Senate applauded Dr. Ginsberg for his presentation and Dr. Golland thanked him.

III. External Reports

A. University Administration (Green/Cada/Bylaska)

- (Green) The President commented on the lively discussion and interesting viewpoints of Dr. Ginsberg's presentation. GSU is a unionized campus. Dr. Green would argue that there is more power, opportunity, and privilege to define roles of faculty here. PBAC also allows faculty to make inputs on finances of GSU. Dr. Green stated that she is in a fight for what is good for GSU. She has made a habit of reaching out to shared governance leaders on these issues. She wants us to fight together. It is okay if we disagree because we share a bottom line – the success of our students and enrichment for campus members.
- Yesterday, Governor Pritzker gave budget address and is proposing a flat budget. The members of the administration are relieved because they were expecting cuts. We will be able to continue to operate and meet goals and priorities.
- With regard to the state budget, IBHE recommended for GSU the second highest percentage increase amount among all of the public institutions in Illinois.
- While Dr. Green wanted a face to face commencement, based on current guidelines and reports, we will not have a face to face commencement. There will be a virtual ceremony expanded from what it was in May 2020. The service will allow students to create their own webpages. Faculty are asked to post to students' pages. Dr. Green stated that she hears repeatedly about the relationships students have with faculty. Faculty should participate as much as possible.
- The search for the Director of Compliance position in final stages.
- The search for the Associate Vice President for Human Resources is initializing with consultants. The President will be seeking faculty to sit on that search committee.
- In the search for the Diversity Officer, resumes are being received.
- In the search for the Dean of the Library, the search process is going along well.
- (Cada) – The Provost sent out information to Unit A faculty on the Gen Ed Council Director and Assistant Director positions. She looks forward to receiving applications. April 1 is the close date.
- Research Day is being developed in a virtual format. It will be more like a Research Week. An email has been sent to faculty. Dr. Cada is grateful to faculty and student contributions. The Provost's Office is using Opus for submitting papers. For any questions, send them to the Provost's Office.
- (Bylaska) Vice President Bylaska found Professor Ginsberg's talk interesting. It would be unfortunate if we generalized between Johns Hopkins and GSU, where the situation is far different. GSU has a relatively lean administration to deal with same number of issues. Dr. Bylaska will work up numbers to help to underline that statement so that faculty have those for comparison purposes.
- Dr. Bylaska is working on equitable funding group for the state and working to get a fair share to GSU and other universities. The state of Illinois does not have a fully funded funding program like other states.

- There will be a flat state budget for higher ed and GSU overall. A flat budget treats GSU relatively well and allows us to continue with our plans without significant changes or eliminations. As far as we can tell, we are in a good or better position than other Illinois universities and universities as a whole. More detail on the budget and GSU's financial situation will come available in PBAC.
- The credit rating for GSU not as high as we would like it to be. This causes issues with new debt service and refinancing. It is largely the reflection of the state of Illinois' budget position, particularly because of the budget impasse of prior years. Our credit rating is unchanged, which is a success because it could be much worse.
- Will County's Health Department is going to discontinue COVID-19 testing on our campus. Participation has dropped off, as would be expected in winter months, and campus does not have many students or employees on campus. The administration has been working on alternatives on that and will announce plans related to testing in the future.
- Dr. Golland asked Dr. Cada about Associate Provost Rosemary Johnsen as chair of Library Dean Search Committee with regard to the Faculty Senate resolution about using a tenured faculty member to chair any dean search committee. Dr. Cada stated that it has been the tradition to name a dean or other administrator to chair searches for deans and other administrators. The Faculty Senate's slate for the search committee has been honored.
- Dr. Goode requested persistence data for fall going into spring. Dr. Cada will make that available to the Faculty Senate. Given COVID-19, with the Retention to Graduation (R2G) program, there has been a little bit of a drop with first-year students. GSU is doing pretty well with persistence. All universities are seeing changes.
- Motion made to add five minutes to agenda for this item. No objection. So moved.
- Dr. Kresse provided information on how to raise hand in Zoom.
- Dr. Green discussed student retention. The short answer is that it is easier to retain a current student than it is to recruit new students. The administration is focusing on retention for various cohorts. A retention report will be very helpful for faculty.

B. University Professionals of Illinois (Wagner)

- Dr. Estep was not present at this time. Dr. Wagner discussed the nominations process for UPI leadership positions, which is going on now. There have been many nominations for various positions. Dr. Wagner is serving as nominations committee chair and is not going to continue in union leadership. He appreciates the nominations he has received. Union members should check their email to see if they have been nominated to a position.
- A UPI meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 25 on Zoom. Further nominations will be accepted at that time from the floor. Please consider attending this meeting because it is very important.
- Dr. Vanderpool asked, if UPI will be taking floor nominations next Thursday, whether there will be a list of nominees at that time. Dr. Wagner stated that UPI is creating a list of candidates into the meeting. If a union member has gotten an email from him, please get back to him by Wednesday of next week. The process is to continue to take nominations during the meeting. The final slate is due to UPI at the

beginning of March. Members can self-nominate at the UPI meeting. Many of these positions are elected.

- Motion made to add five more minutes on this item. No objection.
- Dr. Green asked when the actual election for UPI will be held. Dr. Wagner stated that he believes it will be in mid-March or shortly after. It is managed by the Local. Ballots will be received by members from the Local.
- Dr. Winicki asked whether there has there been any movement on AFT/IFT regarding COVID-19 vaccines for faculty and in those with 1B status. Dr. Wagner stated that here has not been progress on that. Discussion was held about whether there is enough vaccine in Cook County to expand vaccinations.
- Dr. Green stated that all of the public university presidents wrote a letter to the Governor supporting adding the faculty adding to category 1B for COVID 19 vaccinations. Green had a one on one meeting with Senator Durbin today and discussed this issue with him. Senator Durbin said he will bring it up with the Governor.

C. Student Senate (Tyler)

- The Student Senate held talking circles on February 5 on COVID-19, the presidential election, and other topics. They had good discussion with help of their panelists, some of whom are present in this meeting.
- The Student Senate will be meeting on February 24 with Dr. Potempa to discuss the Facilities Master Plan.
- Dr. Kresse encouraged faculty to participate in the Student Senate talking circles and thanked Mr. Tyler for invitation.
- Dr. Muhammad asked Mr. Tyler how the students are doing. Mr. Tyler stated that, so far, the Student Senate has received questions from students about on campus vaccinations and when will these become available, for students who don't want to get vaccinated, will they have to, and what will be the availability of the vaccine.
- Dr. Green stated that GSU signed an MOU with Will County regarding vaccinations. The administration is positioning GSU to serve as a site, but there is not the supply of vaccines to execute that yet.
- With regard to whether vaccinations be required to return to campus, Dr. Green stated that she wants students to be back on campus in the fall. In order to be back on campus, there will be things that everyone has to do. The administration has not made final decisions about who needs to be vaccinated and who does not. There are some protections that will need to be in place. The President and Provost have discussed how to bring students back into campus for fall 2021.

IV. Closed Session. Motion to move to closed session. Moved and seconded. Motion carries by roll call vote. Closed session began at 2:15 p.m. Motion to adjourn closed session. Moved and seconded. Motion carries. Closed session ends at 2:46 p.m.

V. Old Business

- Motion made to approve January Faculty Senate Minutes. Seconded. Dr. Winicki raised an amendment with regard to reference to "education department" in the minutes. This should be called the "Division of Education." Amendment approved without objection. No objection to approving agenda as amended. Passed.
- Motion made to approval of Policy Process Bylaw. Seconded. Dr. Golland synopsized the proposed bylaw amendment. Discussion held.

- Dr. Winicki asked where do the bylaws fall within the list of precedence in amendment. Dr. Kresse stated that it depends on who is asked. Dr. Winicki asked where the authority for making these pronouncements in the bylaws arises. Dr. Kresse stated that the bylaws are considered persuasive authority.
- Dr. Boland-Prom stated that this policy oversteps because it sets requirements for the Provost that she has not previously agreed to and goes beyond the agreement between IPC and APC in the Faculty Senate resolution regarding interim APC reviews. Discussion held on meaning of “earliest feasible opportunity.”
- Dr. Boland-Prom proposed amendment to drop “earliest feasible opportunity” from the proposed bylaw.
- Discussion held regarding procedures for being included or designation of a responsible administrator in the policy.
- Discussion held on the 90-day limit for the Provost’s Office.
- Amendment approved. No objection to passing the amendment to the bylaw as amended. Without objection, passed by unanimous consent.

VI. Internal Reports

A. Committees

1. Executive (Golland)

- Approval of Budget Standing Rule. The Executive Committee moved and seconded this rule. No objection to approving standing rules as amended.
- Appointment of Dr. Steven Sharp to IPC. No objection to removing this from the agenda as Dr Sharp has a conflicting committee membership.

2. Policies (Boland-Prom)

- Recommendations on Policies 2, 3, 16, 30, 58. Policy 2 and 3 were voted on previously last spring. GSU’s attorney inserted a paragraph on rank order of rules in the policy. Dr. Boland-Prom asked that this be approved by the FS. The policies have been moved and seconded by IPC.
- Policies 16, 30, and 58 are from the Grad Council. IPC is not interjecting an opinion about these policies because faculty have been involved in drafting and editing. They have been moved and seconded by IPC.
- Discussion of motion was held. Dr. Winicki asked a question about Policy 58 on the term post-baccalaureate certificates as opposed to post-masters certificates. However, this does not involve undergraduate certificates. There was a mistake in the summary of the policy changes regarding the title of the policy.
- No objection was made to approving amendments and deprecations of these policies. Amendments to policies 2, 16, 30, and 58 are approved. Deprecation of Policy 30 is approved. Motion carries.

B. Optional

1. Professional Development (Cervantes)

- The committee is discussing a date for Faculty Development Day for Fall 2021, which will be held two weeks before start of the semester on either Tuesday or Wednesday. The committee is waiting for word from the Provost regarding when the second day of orientation for new faculty is scheduled.
- A discussion was held regarding the date for the Faculty Senate retreat on August 24. This event will not conflict with plans for the Faculty Development Day. A suggestion was made that the dates go into Live 25.

- Discussion held on the workshops for tenure track faculty for portfolios hosted by the Provost Office.
 - Dr. Cervantes recommended faculty mentoring be part of Faculty Development Day.
2. Enrollment Management (Tymkow/Vujaklija)
- A town hall meeting was held on February 4 and a committee meeting has been held.
 - Individual committees are doing quite intensive work. The next committee meeting is scheduled for March 15, and organization planning will be held in July.

VII. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 3:18 p.m.