

Faculty Senate Meeting
March 19, 2015

Gwyneth Williams, Faculty Senate President, Presiding

Members Present: John Aleshunas, Ginny Altrogge, Jef Awada, Larry Baden, Don Conway-Long, Ted Green, Ryan Groeneman, Terri Reilly, J.P. Palmer-Schuyler, Chris Sagovac, Joe Schuster, Eileen Solomon, Keith Welsh, Phyllis Wilkinson

Announcements: For those who are not aware, Glen Bauer's husband, Tim Sharnas, passed away on March 17th. The visitation will be Tuesday, March 24, from 4-8 p.m., at Gerber Chapel, 23 W. Lockwood Avenue in Webster Groves.

I. Approval of Minutes

February 12, 2015 Senate Minutes – Approved by unanimous consent.

February 19, 2015 Senate Minutes – Approved by unanimous consent.

II. Academic Honors

The Honors Board requested guidance on applying criteria, including new and preexisting criteria, to nominations for spring 2015. This criteria will be followed this semester for awarding academic honors. The new criteria is not in the current catalog, but will appear in the new catalog that is now being drafted. Nancy Hellerud has notified the Registrar's Office about using the new criteria for spring.

III. School of Education Proposal

A motion was made and seconded that the Senate approve the School of Education Proposal to move the Education Specialist degrees (Ed.S.) in 1) Education Leadership and 2) School Systems, Superintendency Leadership, the Advanced Certificate in Teacher Leadership and the new Doctor of Education degree from the Multidisciplinary Studies Department to the CARE Department.

Senators Altrogge and Wilkinson, members of the CARE Department, recused themselves from the discussion and the vote.

Following discussion, a vote was taken by paper ballot with the outcome of 11 to 1 voting in favor of moving the above programs to the CARE Department. Motion carried.

IV. Spring Institute

An update was given regarding planning of the institute (food, set up).

V. Center for Interdisciplinary Studies/Global Citizenship Program Committee

The Center for Interdisciplinary Studies no longer exists and programs that fell under CIS have been moved into other departments. We need to remove CIS from the University Handbook. The Center for Practical and Interdisciplinary Ethics has also ceased operations. A motion was made and seconded to remove the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies and the Center for Practical and Interdisciplinary Ethics from the University Handbook. Motion carried.

Handbook forms will be completed, signed and sent to DeLyle Bowen to remove this information from the Handbook.

Global Citizenship Program Committee

There is an open seat that used to belong to CIS on the GCP Committee to be filled in the upcoming election. The GCP Committee is discussing the various issues and will make a recommendation to the Senate regarding filling the CIS Chair seat since the Center is no longer active.

The Senate recommends that the open seat become an appointed at-large position.

VI. Updates

Thailand - The executive committee, which is made up of three different committees, is working on their assessment report of the Thailand campus. Once Provost Schuster receives the final report, Gwyneth will ask him to speak to the Senate.

Handbook Definitions of faculty – Gwyneth is trying to set a meeting with Nancy Hellerud and Rita Smith to discuss updating the definitions of contingent faculty for the University Handbook. Most of the substantive content has been approved by the Senate and the Provost, but the new language requires technical revisions throughout the Handbook.

A recommendation was made to use status track/statused when referring to full-time, non-contingent faculty in the University Handbook.

Extraordinary Merit Pay Policy – The Extraordinary Merit Pay Policy is not in place for this year. The Senate has approved the draft and it has been shared with the Faculty Assembly. It will ultimately go back to the Faculty Assembly for final approval. Gwyneth has sent the draft to Betsy Schmutz and it is now in front of the administrative council.

The Satisfactory Performance policy is to go into effect this spring.

The Salary and Fringe Benefits Committee met with the Administration on March 9th to discuss the SFB proposal. The initial feedback was positive.

VII. Class Size Concerns

Gwyneth invited Provost Schuster to attend today's Senate meeting to discuss the concern of large class size sections being added to the schedule in School of Communications. For next fall's schedule, an Intro to Mass Communications course is being offered with a limit of 48 students. There was a section with an enrollment limit of 48 scheduled for spring that was cancelled due to lack of enrollment.

Provost Schuster stated, "We will never move from a University which prides itself on personal attention to classes which are oversubscribed and do not provide the best educational experience for the students."

There is no knowledge of any deans contemplating offering a large number of courses with a larger class size. It is felt that one larger class section will not affect the integrity of the University.

The question was asked about where ownership of the pedagogy lies, whether it is with the faculty or the dean? Dr. Schuster emphasized that the whole university community, including faculty and administration, owns the pedagogy.

The main concern of the faculty is how the students will be affected. In comparing sections, a member of the School of Communications reported it was determined that an instructor removed the final project from the larger class section. It was suggested that larger sections are being offered for budgetary reasons without consideration of the effects on student learning.

Provost Schuster explained that the deans have the right to experiment and while some experiments fail others succeed. This issue is a School of Communications issue and needs to be addressed with the dean. It is hoped that a compromise can be reached in this situation. Provost Schuster will conduct research and attempt to see what should be done about the larger class section offerings.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.