

Faculty Senate  
December 6, 2019  
Delta Center, Room 103  
Draft Minutes

**Present:** Annette Bednar, Manu Bhandari, Sudeepa Bhattacharyya, Robert Bradley, Andrea Brown, Donna Caldwell, Mathew Carey, Ross Carroll, Sarah Davidson, Kim Davis, Mary Donaghy, Lillie Fears, Paul Finnicum, Kathryn Flannigan, Joe Ford, Amanda Wheeler Gryffin, Joanna Grymes, John Hershberger, Matthew Hill, Sharon James, Cherisse Branch-Jones, Ryan Kelly, Donghoon Kim, Joseph Loar, Bill Maynard, Loretta McGregor, Jeff McLaughlin, Suzanne Melescue, Jie Miao, Paul Minor, Pradeep Mishra, Vincent Moreno, Nikesha Nesbitt, Tim Oliver, Arianne Pait, Joseph Richmond, Robert Robinette, Bill Rowe, Richard Segall, Marcus Tribbett, Wayne Wilkinson, Christine Wright, Karen Yanovitz,

**Proxies:** S. Davidson for Cheryl Knight

**Visitors:** Shelly Gibson, Carl Cates, Tom Moore

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm.

**Approval of agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda was made (Ford, Flannigan), and approved.

**Approval of the minutes from November 01, 2019**

M. Tribbett moved and A. Brown seconded a motion to approve the minutes.

Minutes were approved as distributed (second draft).

**Updates:**

December Graduation: Faculty come in through blue entrance; may only bring a clear bag meeting the requirements emailed out.

All grades due 19<sup>th</sup> for all; senior grades due 18<sup>th</sup>; AOS grades due 12/11.

**Old Business:**

- ❖ A-State Student Health Center update – Dr. Damphousse will address this later
- ❖ Henderson State – email came today that ASU Board approved acceptance of Henderson State into this system.
  - On a call with all system institutions, Dr. Welch again assured Henderson will not negatively impact the Jonesboro campus.
  - Henderson and their faculty will not come onto our insurance in January; it will be a year. Three Rivers (COTO) will come on in our insurance in January.

The author of the two resolutions sent via email could not be at today's meeting and requested postponing the business. B. Maynard/M. Tribbett moved to consider postponing the resolutions until the next meeting in January. Motion approved.

The first Senate meeting on the calendar would be the first Friday of classes (3<sup>rd</sup> Friday). Because the meeting would take place during the first week of classes, McGregor asked the body to consider changing the meeting date January 24<sup>th</sup>, which is the fourth Friday in January. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be February 7. B. Maynard moved, S. Davidson seconded a motion to make this change. The motion passed but not unanimously.

### **New Business:**

Maynard requested follow through on the Faculty resolutions related to bonuses, and for us to ask the Chairs' Council to address the Senate regarding their position and rationale on returning earned bonus.

There was a question about a potential plan/decision to return to a Masters 1 status rather than maintaining the current Carnegie level. What is the rationale for maintaining the level for football but not academics? McGregor stated that within the Strategic Planning Committee focused discussion on the reality that if we do not consider research a priority in our strategic plan (which is still under development) and does not prioritize to provide/secure funding at a level necessary for an R2 institution, then that would mean the university would move back to the Masters level. McGregor said that discussion was not about choosing to go back but reinforcing that not making those priority choices would have an impact.

Strategic Planning Committee is meeting Monday to review the most current, comprehensive draft. Then we can ask that the draft be shared with us.

Maynard suggested the concern he and other faculty members felt was why the is the has the decision to maintain our football status been clearly determined, but questions related to academic funding like Library and Carnegie status have not.

A discussion about having access to make requests of donors emerged.

Perhaps the question is why auxiliary funds move primarily to one area. McGregor stated there is an open budget meeting in the spring and that would be the time to question budget decisions.

McGregor stated she understood the frustrations of not always having all the available information. She reiterated that senators should go to the academic budget meeting, which is closed to anyone but faculty or staff, and address the question. Maynard suggested that coming to Senate and addressing their questions would be appropriate. McGregor reminded the Senate that Dr. Damphousse has stated that because Senate is not a closed meeting, he is very cautious about what he states due to the opportunity for press to be present. The Chancellor provides closed meetings that provide the opportunity for open discussion.

A discussion emerged related to the open invitation to press to Senate meetings. A question was raised: Is it possible to have a closed portion to the meeting? Because of state laws related to freedom of press, we cannot close the meeting because we do not deal with personnel issues.

Perhaps a subcommittee will look at the bylaws regarding this topic, send it to the

attorney for consideration/legality, and bring to the body for consideration.

Senate is part of the shared governance process. If chairs and deans are receiving different information than senate, that interferes with the process. The difference in information provided is because of the presence of press. Concerns were raised about limiting press access as an answer to this issue.

Perhaps we need to see if we are the only senate that does allow press. By making the change we only limit press access which may not be legal or in our best interests.

Can we ask press to leave but provide a statement after the meeting and provide the minutes? B. Maynard asked McGregor to invite University Counsel, Brad Phelps, to the next meet and address these questions.

Dr. Damphousse and Student Health Center

Dr. Damphousse was able to address the Student Health Center changes. We are in negotiation with NYIT related to the Student Health Center. Our current center has Nurse Practitioners, and is open limited times. Other Health Centers in the state do have doctors; but they also add a health center fee to help support the Health Center. Our students do not pay a health center fee and receive some services free, and do pay for some services.

NYIT has a faculty composed of medical doctors; their faculty are supposed to be in practice. The Health Center would provide opportunity for NYIT medical faculty to be in practice on campus. People who had insurance and did not access it, or students did not want family to know about access and so did not use insurance.

NYIT and A-State lawyers are still working on related contracts.

This would be a Multi-specialty clinic, with an increase in quality and breadth of services provided. Students without insurance pay as currently pay; students with insurance would pay insurance co-pay. Dr. Damphousse stated he was not clear on how it would work for students who did not want to use their family's insurance. This would allow increase in hours/days of availability, telemedicine access, and electronic access to health records. St Bernard's will also partner providing some equipment in the St Bernard's clinic and they will support NYIT with billing. There will be no pharmacy. His understanding there will always be an NYIT physician when the doors are open to services.

Current staff at the existing clinic were offered positions by NYIT.

**Adjourn:**  
**Adjourned at 4:14**

**On Deck:**

*January 24, 2019 3:00-5:00 pm*

*Delta Center, Room 103 (First Floor)*