

Faculty Senate Minutes

September 19, 2014

The Faculty Senate was called to order by Julie Isaacson at 3:05.

The minutes of May 12, 2014 were approved as distributed MSC Bridges/Holifield

Guests:

Dr. Jason Penry presented an update on the status of the Osteopathic Medical School project with NYIT. After meeting with the osteopathic accrediting body in Chicago, Dr. Penry believes we are on track for Fall 2016. A contingency from A State and NYIT will again address the osteopathic body in December with responses to questions mostly related to graduate medical education (GME). A State will host a GME Summit in October with representatives from around the state to brainstorm GME possibilities.

Athletic Director Terry Mohajir presented an athletic update. Mohajir emphasized that the first priority in athletics is academics. He presented data on the A State Academic Progress rate, noting that it is the highest progress rate ever. 197 student athletes have GPAs greater than 3.0 and 45 have a 4.0 GPAs. Mohajir related that A State is recruiting ivy league qualified students and our athletes will be encouraged to consider Fulbright Scholars/Rhodes Scholar recognition. The Athletics department has instituted a jobs mentorship program to help our athletes find employment upon graduation. Last year there were 56 athlete graduates and 100% were employed upon graduation. He noted that one of our former student athletes is currently attending Dartmouth Medical School. According to Mohajir, A State is moving up in rankings in many sports and is especially proud of our two-time national track champion, our women's cross country champion, our women's basketball team and our past two bowl game championships. Mohajir also commented on the football helmet cross memorial for a former team member and an equipment manager. He described how a leadership committee of 15 students and the football head coach decided to use the sticker to dedicate the season to their memory. Upon recommendation from University Counsel, the helmet sticker was revised. Mohajir stated this has been a challenging and controversial issue, and that in the future, he will make the decision on any modifications to state funded equipment.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Isaacson welcomed Dr. Shane Hunt, Dean's representative and Dr. Osa Amienyi, Chair's representative.

New senators were introduced and welcomed.

All senators were reminded to please:

- sign the roster
- pick up their desk name plate
- submit agenda items that are brought to their attention
- review agenda items prior to the meeting
- attend the entire meeting (3-5p.m.)
- send a proxy if unable to attend
- communicate senate information with their constituency
- represent their constituency rather than personal interests when voting

Senators were also reminded that parking was available in the visitor spaces of the Delta Economic Center for this meeting. If anyone inadvertently gets a parking citation, please let Isaacson know.

Officer Election: Dr. John Hall and Dr. Marika Kyriakos were recognized for their service as senate vice chair and secretary respectively. The faculty senate executive committee presented Dr. Cherisse Jones-Branch as a vice chair nominee and Dr. Bruce Jones as a secretary nominee. As no nominations were received from the floor, nominations closed and the elections were made by acclamation.

14FA-01 Smoke Free Campus Proposal (expedited). Isaacson explained that this proposal had undergone revision since its first viewing and has been re-entered into the shared governance process. The main revision deals with the inclusion of smokeless tobacco. Faculty questioned the rationale for this policy. Is it image or health? Is this modeling nicotine abuse? Is there research to support negative effects of second hand vaping? Could there be designated spots on campus where vaping and smokeless tobacco are allowed? Buildings and Grounds is the responsible committee. The senate will vote on this proposal at their next meeting on 10/3.

14FA-02 PRT Procedural Changes (expedited). Isaacson explained the additional edits to this proposal since its first vetting and resubmission to the senate. Questions were raised concerning the manner in which PRT recommendations are delivered (email vs. hard copy). Dr. Hall will work with UPRT to clarify the intent prior to the senate vote on 10/3.

14FA-03 Selection of Academic Administrators (Full). As with the above two proposals, this proposal has been discussed on several occasions and formally resubmitted for review. The author's original intent was to include language addressing a procedure when internal searches are conducted. The majority of the discussion centered on existing language. Faculty requested that a statement be added to include faculty input into the decision regarding an internal vs. external search. Under II.f. *External Search* faculty requested the last sentence be edited to be parallel with proposed language and read, "Efforts should be made to ensure that the candidate pool reflects racial, ethnic and gender diversity." Faculty also asked for clarification with II.f. 5. (proposed). 1-4 are optional ("Such a search may include") but 5. is written as mandatory. Dr. Hall agreed to work on these concerns with Isaacson.

Committee Reports:

SGOC – Dr. Andy Mooneyhan was recognized for his commitment and service as chair of SGOC. Dr. Jeff Pittman will succeed him as the new chair of SGOC. Senators were encouraged to use the faculty senate meetings as an appropriate venue to share shared governance committee reports.

Faculty Senate Committee on Committees – Faculty appointments have been made and forwarded to the Chancellor's office. An unusual number of faculty have retired, moved or changed positions necessitating adjustments in committee appointments. This has delayed letters of committee appointment but they should be forthcoming shortly.

The Gen Ed Task Force is still working. Dr. Amany Saleh hopes to have a report ready to share with this committee and then the Faculty Senate later this semester.

The Internationalization Task Force - Isaacson met with Dr. Cooksey and also with the Director of Global Initiatives. There is still significant interest and need for this task force. Care will be taken not to duplicate efforts of the shared governance International Students and Scholars Committee. The task force will be convened soon. Over 30 faculty volunteered last fall to participate on this task force.

Chair's Report:

An academic integrity course is now required for all incoming freshman.

The SGA will host a Gubernatorial Debate on Campus on October 20, 2014 at 7 p.m.

Vice Chancellors Cooksey and Stripling are discussing enrollment management.

October 11, 2014 is Bike Awareness Day.

Senators Mitch Holifield, Win Bridges, Ryan Kelly, Bruce Johnson and Andy Mooneyhan graciously accepted Dr. Cooksey's ALS Ice Water Challenge and represented the senate well!

There will be only one December Commencement this year. The Faculty Senate Marshall rotation will be adjusted to correct for this. Stay tuned...

Distinguished Faculty Award and Holiday Gathering: Isaacson reminded the senators of the upcoming distinguished faculty ceremony which will precede the faculty association holiday gathering on December 4 at the Cooper Alumni Center. Dr. Hall has sent the academic deans criteria for nominations.

The SGOC reviewed the requested Patent Policy revisions and determined them to be essentially editorial. The Patent Policy will be submitted for revision at the December Board of Trustee's meeting. The revisions allow for only those with patentable research activities to be required to sign an assignment form rather than all faculty, staff and students. This revision has been shared among faculty with expertise and direct involvement in patentable projects and they are comfortable with these changes.

Diversity- Dr. J.W. Mason has agreed to serve as the part-time interim Director of Diversity. One of his top priorities will be the current search for a Chief Diversity officer.

Assessment – A search for a Director of Assessment is also underway.

The Faculty Senate Executive committee is working on contract language that is reflective of a 9 month pay period and calendar issues. They are also working on a class size procedural statement to clarify numbers required for courses to make. Faculty asked if this would include a maximum class size as well. The first step will be minimum size. Isaacson asked if there is any literature to support maximum numbers, are they discipline or level specific, does the delivery mode make a difference, etc. Senators Holifield & Beineke offered to help research this aspect.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Isaacson

		9/19/2014		
		Present	Absent	Proxy
Chair	Julie Isaacson	x		
Agriculture	Greg Phillips	x		
Business	Sam Pae	x		
	Richard Segall	x		
	Jollean Sinclair	x		
Education	John Beineke	x		
	Julie Grady	x		
	John Hall	x		
	Mitch Holifield	x		
	Ryan Kelly	x		
	Andy Mooneyhan	x		
Engineering	Shivan Haran	x		
Fine Arts	Kyle Chandler	x		
	Claire Abernathy	x		
	Bill Rowe		x	
Humanities & SS	Win Bridges	x		
	Hans Hacker	x		

	Gretchen Hill	x	
	Warren Johnson	x	
	Cherisse Jones-Branch	x	
Library	Wendy Crist	x	
Media & Comm.	Pradeep Mishra	x	
	Larz Roberts		x
Military Science	Cecil Clark		x
Nursing & HP	Brenda Anderson	x	
	Rejoice Addae	x	
	Donna Caldwell	x	
	Larry Morton	x	
	Judy Pfriemer	x	
	Debbie Shelton	x	
Science & Math	Jeff Jenness	x	
	Bruce Johnson	x	
	Fabricio Medina-Bolivar	x	
	Suzanne Melescue	x	
University College	Nikesha Nesbitt	x	