

Faculty Senate Business Meeting Minutes 9/16/2024

Present:

Michael Allen, Megan Atkinson, Teddy Burch, Scott Christen, Melissa Comer, Kris Craven, Andrew Donadio, Joshua Field, Mary Lou Fornehed, Jerry Gannod, Melissa Geist, Ka Grimes, Syed Hasan, Colin Hill, Amy Hill, Alfred Kalyanapu, Krystal Kennedy, Christy Killman, Matthew Langford, Richard Le Borne, Jeannette Luna, Jennifer Mabry, Twanelle Majors, Ann Manginelli, Holly Mills, Linda Null, Brian O'Connor, Joseph Ojo, Hyewon Park, Yi Peng, Mustafa Rajabali, Steven Seiler, Lee Ann Shipley, Sandi Smith-Andrews, Amber Spears, Leslie Suters, Dennis Tennant, Kristen Trent, Kyle Turner, Hannah Upole, Lenly Weathers, Brenda Wilson, Kexin Xu

Absent:

Wei Tsun Chang, Mark Creter, Yun Ding, Dennis Fennewald, David Mann, Michael Natrass, Thomas Timmerman,

Monday, September 16, 2024 – Call to order at 3:36 pm by Senate President Rajabali

1. Approval of agenda

Motion: Mills

Second: Allen

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

2. Approval of minutes from previous meetings

a. [April 15th, 2024 business meeting minutes](#)

Motion: Smith-Andrews

Second: Fornehed

Discussion: None

Vote: Minutes approved.

3. Report from Faculty Senate President Rajabali and update on Senate meeting with the president on September 9th

- a. Dr. Polk-Johnson (Student Affairs) was contacted about the student engagement platform and re-registration of student organizations. The new platform (Eagle Engage) and the process is a standard practice that should have already been happening, due to the regular changes in leadership, etc. Student org's must resubmit their application every year. This will help keep things up to date. One concern was raised about simplifying the process and allowing faculty advisors to have access. Senate President Rajabali will reach out to Dr. Polk-Johnson.

4. Proposal of discussion points for meeting with Provost, CFO and President

- a. The suggested theme is "changing the culture of shared governance and improving transparency", allowing members on both sides (faculty and administrative) to be heard. Three in-person meetings are proposed. The first one will be on September 30th with the Provost. Potential topics and ideas should be submitted to Senate President Rajabali. The provost has been asked to do the same.

b. Ideas/concerns for discussion:

- i. Meaning and understanding of shared governance: What does shared governance really mean? How is it understood by faculty, by the provost?

Discussion: Faculty Senate serves as an advisory capacity, participating in decisions of relevance to the faculty (curriculum, tenure and promotion, etc.). It seems as though the understanding of shared governance has eroded over the last few years, with decisions being made that are not in alignment.

- ii. How the meeting will be conducted: Senate President Rajabali will moderate. There will be ample opportunity to follow-up and discuss.
- iii. Policies: Reviewing and making changes. When does this happen? When should it happen? What role do faculty/administration have in this process?

Discussion: Policies under review or undergoing change come before the Senate, so we are able to be a part of that process. We can also request to look at policies. If the person/department that owns the policy says it's good, it doesn't go through the review process.

- Can we create a schedule of policies that are coming up for review? Can we reach out to faculty to see what policies they think should be discussed? Those actions might help us identify policies that need to be fixed.
- Could the chairs of Academic and Administrative Councils be added to the "chain" of notification for potential policy reviews?
- A survey of faculty could help us gather that information, as well as determine other topics of interest to the faculty.
- Does the Senate have a role in the interpretation of policy? Our advisory status prevents that. There are certain policies that directly affect faculty (travel, assignments during dead week, etc) where faculty should be part of the interpretation process. Academic units should be able to select faculty to sit on those committees.
- An ombudsman would be very beneficial for this.
- An adhoc committee will be formed to investigate this further: Senators Luna, A. Hill, Grimes, and Wilson volunteer to serve.
- The tenure and promotion policy is up for review. Several senators have been asked to be on the committee. It is being chaired by two deans. Did the quantitative checklist or narrative come up for review before being implemented?

5. Requested discussion topics for Faculty Senate from faculty

- a. Parking: Clearly an issue. What are some proposed solutions that can help in the short term? Senate President Rajabali asked for an adhoc committee on parking. Senators LeBorne, Atkinson, and Majors volunteered to serve.

Discussion:

- Biggest complaints are that shuttle busses take forever and there are not enough of them.
- Parking garage – any discussion of cost, location, etc?
- The parking appeals committee for faculty and staff had some discussion recently about location but nothing has been said in cabinet.
- The current parking budget is larger than the police budget.

- b. Summer pay: Senate President Rajabali provided information from conversations with the provost. Summer pay has been looked at in many different ways. There are different models, and faculty should have a say in this.

If there is somebody who has been affected by this and would like to be on a committee to investigate, a committee should be formed. Senators Smith-Andrews, LeBorne, O'Connor, and Shipley agreed to serve.

- c. Policies 205, 206 and 207
- d. New titles or positions - tenured and not tenured.
- e. Remaining discussion moved to next meeting.

6. Such Other Matters

- Did anyone get the email that we have to put in 5 years of data in Watermark? Yes, confirmed that it is five years.
- Some faculty took up the Provost on the offer to upload material in Watermark for promotion and that is still not done. The faculty are stressed out. Other faculty have also raised concerns.
- Does the “five years” apply to adjuncts? SACS says yes.
- Reminders: Breakfast with the Board of Trustees on Sept. 26th at 7AM
- Senator meeting dates (business and other) can be found here: [Faculty Senate Meeting Dates for 2024.docx](#)

A motion was made (Killman) and seconded (Allen) to adjourn the meeting. **Meeting adjourned at 5:09PM.**

Approved: 10/21/2024

