

# Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

## October 29, 2021, @ 2:30pm

Via Zoom or Pamplin 30

### Check-In

#### Senators Present:

Montasir Abbas, Diane Agud, Susan Anderson, Richard Ashley, Paul Avey, Joseph Baker, Azziza Bankole, A.K. Bartlett, Andrew Binks, Hilary Bryon, Virginia Buechner-Maxwell, Tanyel Bulbul, Scott Case, Guopeng Cheng, Benjamin Corl, Ashley Dayer, Robert Dunay, Crystal Lane, Stuart Feigenbaum, John Ferris, Carla Finkielstein, James Hawdon, Kevin Heaslip, Ashley Heflin, David Hicks, Bob Hicok, Daniel Hindman, Ran Jin, Brett Jones, Eric Kaufman, Nathan King, Vivica Kraak, Leigh Krometis, Evan Lavender-Smith, Justin Lemkul, Alexander Leonessa, Jason Malone, Eric Martin, Caitlin Martinkus, Frances McCarty, Cayce Myers, Michael Nappier, Amy Nelson, Aaron Noble, Gregory Novack, Thomas O'Donnell, Sarah Parker, Bruce Pencek, Thomas Pingel, Nicole Pitterson, Robin Queen, Steven Rideout, Susanna Rinehart, Nicholas Robbins, Todd Schenk, Charles Schleupner, Peter Schmitthenner, Ryan Stewart, Laura Strawn, Jay Teets, James Tokuhisa, Diego Troya, Layne Watson, Robert Weiss, Cynthia Wood, Randolph Wynne, Yan Xu, Liqing Zhang (69)

#### Guests:

April Myers (1)

(63 attended via Zoom and 8 attended in person)

### Call to Order by Senate President Robert Weiss at 2:34pm

1. Approval of Agenda and Minutes (Robert Weiss)
  - Approval of the Faculty Senate Agenda for October 29, 2021.
  - Approval and posting of the Faculty Senate meeting minutes for September 17, 2021 ([Link](#))

The consent agenda was presented and a motion to approve the consent agenda was made, seconded, and passed by unanimous consent.

2. Approval of Experiential Learning Work Group Members
  - Alan Abrahams (COB)
  - Bob Bush (CNRE)
  - Tiffany Drape (CALs)
  - Mary Kasarda (COE)

Amanda B. MacDonald (Libraries)  
Frank May (Pamplin)  
Amanda J. Morris (COS)  
Donna Sedgwick (CLAHS)  
Victoria Soghomonian (COS)

The candidate names were presented to the Faculty Senate. A motion to approve the appointment was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous consent.

### 3. Practice Vote for Resolution [CFA 2021-22A](#)

With future changes to the governance model, resolutions will be discussed and voted on by the Faculty Senate. Therefore, the Senate completed this process with a practice vote on this resolution. The resolution was explained briefly by the chair of the Commission on Faculty Affairs. No questions were posed from the floor, so a motion was made and seconded and then an electronic vote was successfully completed.

### 4. Brief Updates

#### **Resolutions**

The four resolutions that were discussed included the following:

- CGPSP 2021-22 C (or GPSS 2021-22A, Task force policy)
- CGPSP 2021-22 D (or GPSS 2021-22B, Assistantship extension from 9 to 12 months by default)
- CGPSP 2021-22 E (or GPSS 2021-22E, Change transition of power)
- GPSS 2021-22H (or GPSS 2021-22H, Parental Leave)

These resolutions were reviewed and discussed in the Faculty Senate Cabinet. The decision was made that the Cabinet would send a brief comment to resolutions 2021-22 C, D and H describing concerns about these resolutions. The Cabinet decided to waive the right to comment on resolution 2021-22 E due to the content of the resolution.

A request was made from the floor that all resolutions would be made available to all Senators prior to a decision being made in the Faculty Senate Cabinet. Future resolutions that are shared with the Faculty Senate will be available for all Senators to review.

In response to this and other similar requests, the Faculty Senate Cabinet will discuss potential methods for sharing the resolutions with all Senators and an efficient way to complete these

discussions. In addition to the concerns raised about the ability to review each resolution, the Senate was reminded that the Cabinet members are representatives of each college and therefore are voting on behalf of the college and therefore should be speaking with the Senators from their college before voting.

### **Responsibility Refresher**

Senators were reminded that they are representatives for their academic unit. It is the responsibility of Senators to engage their constituency and collect feedback. Any vote made by a Senator should represent the voice of their constituency. The Senators also should find ways to facilitate communications.

### **Faculty Feedback - Graduate Faculty Registration Requirement**

A question was raised in the Faculty Senate Feedback form regarding the need for all faculty to register to serve on graduate committees through the Graduate Faculty Registration policy. This requires graduate advisors to fill in a Google form to certify their eligibility to serve on graduate committees and to advise students. The Senate voiced the opinion that all tenured/tenure-track faculty should be eligible to advise graduate students by default. Many of them have rich experiences in graduate student advising. There are only about 25% of tenured/tenure track faculty among all faculty.

There was a discussion about the redundancy of this registration process with what is available through Faculty Activity Reports. Other faculty felt that all tenured faculty should be automatically granted this certification. An email was shared from Dean Surprenant that explained the reasoning for this policy change. This email was shared with Senators following the meeting to allow for additional discussions within their units.

## 5. Open-Floor Discussion (Faculty Senate Officers)

**Targeted Harassment** - Robin Queen lead the open-floor discussion related to targeted harassment concerns.

The focus of the discussion was about targeted harassment and the response from the administration and not related to a specific governance resolution.

There was a brief discussion surrounding the potential to add penalties for not adhering to the Principles of Community. There was a desire to draft a statement surrounding targeted harassment. Support was voiced for the statement that was released by President Sands and others raised concerns that the statement did not go far enough and was delayed in being released.

The Faculty Senate agreed to consider a letter that condemns targeted harassment after this letter is drafted by a member of the Faculty Senate. The letter will be shared with all

Senators, and they will be asked to share the letter with their units and then a vote will be taken at a future Faculty Senate meeting.

### **COVID-19 Mitigation and Updates**

The FDA has approved the vaccine for younger children (ages 5-11) and appointments can be scheduled starting the week of November 1. Concerns remain regarding limited mandatory testing on campus and the number of students who are coughing in classes. There is support within certain units to continue the mask mandate. One Senator reported that we still had 5.8% positive test results on campus and supported maintaining the mask mandate. There was strong support that any decisions on changing the mask mandate be science-based. One Senator made the statement that if there was a change in the mask mandate policy this should simultaneously give faculty the freedom to choose their modality of work. It was shared that the decision-making process at the University was taken seriously and involved many discussions from varying perspectives and that decisions are made with caution.

### **6. Adjourn**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15PM.