

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
February 6, 2018

IN ATTENDANCE:

Monty Abbas, Alan Abrahams, Masoud Agah, Diane Agud, Susan Anderson, Richard Ashley, Jacob Barney, Bonnie Billingsley, Michael Borowski, Carlyle Brewster, Bryan Brown, Alan Esker, John Ferris, William Galloway, LuAnn Gaskill, Ellen Gilliland, Nicolin Girmes-Grieco, James Hawdon, Bob Hicok, Kathy Hosig, Eric Kaufman, Bradley Klein, Bettina Koch, Roberto Leon, Eric Lyon, Zachary Mackey, Cayce Myers, Philip Olson, Marie Paretti, Anita Puckett, David Radcliffe, Hans Robinson, Todd Schenk, Peter Schmitthenner, Brett Shadle, Richard Shryock, Ryan Speer, Jim Spotila, David Tegarden, Jim Tokuhisa, Diego Troya, and Layne Watson. (42 senators).

ABSENT:

Biko Agozino, Mehdi Ahmadian, Robin Allnut, Gregory Amacher, Osman Balci, Arthur Ball, Tanyel Bulbul, Robert Bush, James Campbell, Virgilio Centeno, Stefan Duma, Candace Fitch, Joseph Gabbard, Tracy Gilmore, Sierra Guynn, Roger Harris, Sara Jordan, Chang Lu, Shelley Martin, Margarita McGrath, Mike Nappier, Sean O'Keefe, Doug Patterson, John Richey, Susanna Rinehart, Tina Savla, Gary Skaggs, Eric Smith, Stephen Smith, Divya Srinivasan, Dean Stauffer, Cornel Sultan, Benjamin Tracy, Kelly Trogdon, Dwight Viehland, Bruce Vogelaar, and Ryan Zimmerman. (37 senators).

1) Agenda

With one revision in order, the agenda was approved.

2) Minutes

The minutes from the January 23, 2018 meeting were approved.

3) Closed session

The Faculty Senate went into closed session to allow Bernice Hausman, Chair of the Department of English, to cover a recent graduate student controversy and issues it raises for the university community.

4) Dialog with President Sands on governance reform

The Senate was informed of an upcoming meeting between the Cabinet and President Sands to discuss governance reform. This led to a wide-ranging discussion about the need for greater faculty voice in governance. Many familiar topics were raised, including problems with EFARs, the mystery of the PIBB, and recent irregularities with some P & T cases. Senators stressed the need for more involvement between the faculty and upper administration, as well as greater accountability on the part of upper administration for decisions and promises they make.

5) Topics relating to the ad hoc committee report

At the last session, members of an ad hoc committee presented a report on irregularities in several cases from the 2016-2017 P & T cycle. These cases were not allowed to proceed to a full and final vote of the University P & T Committee.

Hans Robinson told senators that he has now shared this report with the President and Provost, and requested a meeting with the Provost to discuss it.

Additionally, William Galloway, from the School of Architecture + Design, presented a memo, authored by the Peer Review Committee of A + D, that responds to the same report. This memo asks President Sands to review the cases covered by the report and take action on them.

The Peer Review Committee also asked the Senate to send the memo to President Sands, along with an earlier letter requesting the investigation in the first place. A motion was passed to send both the memo and letter to President Sands.

Following Professor Galloway's comments, different opinions were offered about how President Sands might redress the failures of process revealed in the ad hoc committee's report.

6) EFARs

Hans Robinson gave a brief update on the Dec. 5 meeting between the Provost and Cabinet, at which the Provost said the use of EFARs would remain a college-level decision. This was based on the Provost's discussion with the deans about EFARs. The deans argued against an earlier agreement, reached by the Cabinet and the former Provost, to delay the implementation of EFARs until software problems have been resolved, and in favor of the use of EFARs being a matter for each college to decide.

As has happened every time EFARs come up, senators expressed great frustration over the time it takes to use the software, and the belief that asking faculty to use it demonstrates the administration's lack of respect for faculty.

7) The meeting adjourned at 7:00.