

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
March 13, 2018

IN ATTENDANCE:

Monty Abbas, Alan Abrams, Masoud Agah, Biko Agozino, Diane Agud, Mehdi Ahmadian, Robin Allnut, Susan Anderson, Richard Ashley, Jacob Barney, Bonnie Billingsley, Michael Borowski, Virgilio Centeno, Alan Esker, John Ferris, William Galloway, Ellen Gilliland, Nicolin Girmes-Grieco, James Hawdon, Bob Hicok, Eric Kaufman, Bradley Klein, Bettina Koch, Roberto Leon, Eric Lyon, Shelley Martin, Margarita McGrath, Marie Paretto, Anita Puckett, David Radcliffe, Ford Ramsey, Susanna Rinehart, Hans Robinson, Brett Shadle, Richard Shryock, Eric Smith, Stephen Smith, Jim Spotila, David Tegarden, Jim Tokuhisa, Diego Troya, Bruce Vogelaar, and Layne Watson. (43 senators).

ABSENT:

Gregory Amacher, Osman Balci, Arthur Ball, Carlyle Brewster, Bryan Brown, Tanyel Bulbul, Robert Bush, James Campbell, Stefan Duma, Joseph Gabbard, LuAnn Gaskill, Tracy Gilmore, Sierra Guynn, Roger Harris, Kathy Hosig, Sara Jordan, Chang Lu, Zachary Mackey, Cayce Myers, Mike Nappier, Sean O'Keefe, Philip Olson, Doug Patterson, John Richey, Tina Savla, Todd Schenk, Manisha Singal, Gary Skaggs, Ryan Speer, Divya Srinivasan, Dean Stauffer, Cornel Sultan, Benjamin Tracy, Kelly Trogdon, Dwight Viehland, and Ryan Zimmerman. (36 senators).

1) Agenda

With one revision in order, the agenda was approved.

2) Minutes

The minutes from the February 20, 2018 meeting were approved.

3) Graduate diversity education

Nancy Bodenhorn and Rajesh Bagci from CGS&P took questions and listened to comments on CGS&P 2017-18A, "Resolution to Incorporate an Inclusion and Diversity Education Component into Graduate Education." In their words, the goal of this resolution "is to better prepare graduate students for work and life by giving them the opportunity to embrace inclusion and diversity." This was the 2nd discussion of this resolution in Faculty Senate.

While once again supporting the goal of this resolution, senators expressed many concerns, both to our guests and after they left: how will the impact of inclusion and diversity education be measured; will the resolution create a burden for departments without actually increasing sensitivity to issues related to diversity and inclusion; does this approach to inclusion and diversity politicize academic discussion, to name a few. Suggestions for changes were offered too, including a pilot program in several academic units before the final policy is rolled out campus-wide. The senate resolved that Hans Robinson would synthesize our comments and write a letter to CGS&P.

4) Academic analytics

Janell Watson, the local AAUP president, came to discuss Academic Analytics, “a provider of high-quality, custom business intelligence data and solutions for research universities in the United States and the United Kingdom,” prior to a meeting about Academic Analytics that she has scheduled with Rachel Gabriele, Assistant Provost for Faculty Initiatives & Policies.

Academic Analytics came up previously in Faculty Senate as part of the broader discussion about the PIBB. The following passage from an ‘Inside Education’ article gives some sense of the concerns faculty have raised about Academic Analytics, and the use of metrics in general, here and at other universities:

“The entirely quantitative methods and variables employed by Academic Analytics -- a corporation intruding upon academic freedom, peer evaluation and shared governance -- hardly capture the range and quality of scholarly inquiry, while utterly ignoring the teaching, service and civic engagement that faculty perform.”

After listening to similar concerns from senators, Janell said she’d report back to the senate on her conversation with Rachel.

5) Sponsorship of “Take Back the Night”

Susan Anderson asked if senators wanted Faculty Senate to become a sponsor of the upcoming “Take Back the Night” Rally & March, just as GSA, SGA, and many others already have.

A motion to sponsor “Take Back the Night” passed unanimously.

6) Adjournment

Faculty Senate adjourned at 7:01:35.