

Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Place: Pamplin 32

Time: 5:15 p.m.

Chair: Bernice Hausman

Minutes: Rebecca Miller

Attending: Monty Abbas, Robin Allnutt, Susan Anderson, Nahum Arav, Richard Ashley, Joseph Baker, Daniel Breslau, Virgil Centeno, Benjamin Corl, Rami Dalloul, Alex Dickow, Charlene Eska, Felicia Etzkorn, John Ferris, Hans Gindlesberger, Rosemary Goss, Ralph Hall, Bernice Hausman, Wat Hopkins, David Jacobsen, Bradley Klein, Chad Lavin, Adi Livnat, Jenny Lo, Gerald Luttrell, Joe Merola, Rebecca Miller, Michael Moehler, Sakiko Okumoto, Paulo Polanah, Jim Parkhurst, Doug Patterson, Anita Puckett, Wornie Reed, John Richey, Susanna Rinehart, Tina Savla, Hannah Scherer, Jim Spotila, David Tegarden, Dan Thorp, Eric Vance, Bruce Vogelaar, Layne Watson, Philip Young

A quorum was met for this meeting.

Guests: None in attendance

Meeting purpose: Regular Faculty Senate meeting

Agenda items: Approval of the agenda

Approval of the minutes from the September 2, 2014 meeting

Brief announcements

Statements from faculty concerning the Pathways proposal

Develop specific recommendations for UCCL

Faculty Senate President Bernice Hausman called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Agenda item 1: Approval of the agenda

Motion to approve the agenda was seconded and passed by unanimous decision.

Agenda item 2: Approval of the minutes from the September 2, 2014 meeting

It was moved, seconded, and passed that approval of the minutes be postponed until they can be posted in a more official, organized, and structured manner. Secretary Rebecca Miller indicated that she would review and follow Eli Mina's *Guide to Minute Taking* in order to ensure that Faculty Senate meeting minutes met accepted standards for recording and archiving formal meeting minutes.

In order to assist the minute taking, senators introduced themselves, and President Hausman again urged senators to appoint a replacement if a senator cannot attend a particular meeting.

Agenda item 3: Brief announcements

President Hausman reviewed decisions made by the Faculty Senate cabinet during their September 9, 2014 meeting. These included:

- The decision to continue bi-weekly meetings of the Faculty Senate in order to conduct. The cabinet will re-evaluate this decision at the end of the Fall 2014 semester.
- The decision to reconvene the Governance Task Force. President Hausman asked that **senators interested in serving on the Governance Task Force contact Monty Abbas**.
- The decision to institute a Faculty Salary Task Force. President Hausman asked that **senators interested in serving on the Faculty Salary Task Force contact Paulo Polanah**.

President Hausman announced that there are materials in a folder labeled “Resources” in the Governance folder in the larger Resources folder on Scholar that contains information on changes and trends at US universities in spending and staff. President Hausman encouraged senators to review the information in this Scholar folder.

President Hausman reported on the Board of Visitors meeting that took place September 14-15, 2014. Senators are encouraged to read the remarks that she made during the meeting; these remarks are posted on the Faculty Senate website: <http://blogs.lt.vt.edu/facultysenate/2014/09/26/fs-presidents-remarks-at-bov/>. President Hausman also reported that President Sands emphasized the Gallup Purdue Index, which is a study about college student well-being. President Hausman would like to invite President Sands to visit Faculty Senate and discuss these, and other thoughts. **A motion to invite President Sands to a future Faculty Senate meeting was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.** It was noted that President Sands has already agreed to attend a Faculty Senate meeting, and that the plan going forward will include finding a time when President Sands can attend, having the Faculty Senate cabinet set an agenda, and have the entire Faculty Senate approve that agenda before President Sands visits with the Senate. Before that, President Hausman will place the Gallup Purdue Index report in Scholar for senator review. That file is in the BOV folder in Resources on the Scholar site.

President Hausman also indicated that we should bring in a representative from Student Affairs in order to have Student Affairs share their goals. It was noted that all students now receive a guidebook on the “Keystone Experience” and that it would be interesting to hear from Student Affairs on this topic.

Agenda item 4: Statements from faculty concerning the Pathways proposal

Faculty senators were asked to prepare a 3-5 minute statement concerning the proposed revision to the Curriculum for Liberal Education (the Pathways proposal), and to upload their comments to the Forum on Scholar. Senators were instructed specifically to offer commentary on assessment, how faculty can be involved in the curriculum, and how the distribution of credit hours and learning outcomes are delineated.

A total of 14 senators from 13 different departments delivered prepared statements on the Pathways proposal. These senators were:

- Wornie Reed, Sociology
- Alex Dickow, Foreign Languages & Literatures
- Rick Ashley, Economics
- Chad Lavin, Political Science
- Eric Vance, Statistics
- Felicia Etzkorn, Chemistry
- Jeff Barrett, Biological Sciences
- Bruce Vogelaar, Physics
- Monty Abbas, Civil Engineering
- Joe Merola, Chemistry
- Susanna Rinehart, Theatre and Cinema
- Hannah Scherer, Agricultural Leadership and Community Education
- John Ferris, Mechanical Engineering
- Anita Puckett, Religion and Culture
- Bernice Hausman, English

Detailed comments may be found in the Forum on the Faculty Senate Scholar site. Major trends identified by the comments included:

- Concern over the combination of humanities and social sciences
- Poorly written and unclear learning outcomes
- Having courses approved to count towards general education credits
- How general education will affect current CLE courses
- Working with staff and faculty who regularly use departmental checklists
- The fragmented view of categories and disciplines
- Using pilot courses to inform decisions made about the CLE
- Learning outcomes under scientific reasoning, specifically
- The new proposal is being “rushed” through, and faculty have no time to think or respond
- Assessment of courses and the entire program

Agenda item 5: Develop specific recommendations for UCCL

A motion was made and seconded that the Faculty Senate write a resolution asking the UCCL to separate Humanities and Social Sciences as discrete areas in the general education curriculum. In the discussion that followed, a number of additional issues were brought up, including the suggestion that any resolution going forward include further recommendations and identification of specific problems areas.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to table the original motion in order for the Faculty Senate to be able to write a new motion that would include additional concerns and give the Senate more time to discuss the full proposal. During the discussion about the new proposal, there was disagreement over whether the Faculty Senate should issue a short, general statement that problems have been identified or issue a statement that includes 3-4 substantive examples of identified issues. A straw poll was taken

in order to determine the form of the resolution, and it was determined that the majority of faculty senators were in favor of submitting a statement and 3-4 substantive examples.

Bruce Vogelaar offered a specific opening paragraph, and a motion was made and seconded to use his paragraph as the basis for the resolution's introduction, in addition to major concerns identified from faculty statements earlier in the meeting. The concerns that were identified for inclusion were:

- Request for an explanation why humanities and social sciences are together
- Request for clarification about resources to support pedagogical goals of the program
- Revision of learning outcomes that will remove jargon, identify clear and measurable outcomes, and treat disciplines as areas of inquiry
- Definition of the problem that the proposal is trying to solve

The suggested concluding statement is: Until these and other questions are addressed in a manner deemed satisfactory by the Faculty Senate, the faculty senate cannot endorse this proposal.

A motion to accept this as a resolution, with light editing by President Hausman, was seconded and passed by a vote of 41 in favor, 1 in opposition, and with 2 abstaining.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 30, 2014, 5:15 p.m. in Pamplin 32

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.