

**Faculty Senate Minutes**  
**April 5, 2019**  
**NCB 160, 2:30 - 3:45\***

*Senators in attendance*

Monty Abbas, Biko Agozino, Diane Agud, Robin Allnutt, Richard Ashley, Michael Borowski, Brian Britt, Leandro Castello, Harry Dorn, Matt Eick, John Ferris, John Galbraith, Ellen Gilliland, Nicolin Girmes-Grieco, James Hawdon, Bob Hicok, Kathy Hosig, Eunju Hwang, Bradley Klein, Bettina Koch, Jake Lahne, Zachary Mackey, Paul Marek, Margarita McGrath, Robin Queen, David Radcliffe, Susanna Rinehart, Todd Schenk, Durelle Scott, Richard Shryock, Ryan Speer, Cornel Sultan, David Tegarden, Jim Tokuhisa, Diego Troya, Layne Watson, Anthony Wright de Hernandez

*Guests*

Kase Poling (SGA), Jackson Ribber (JSU), Thulasi Kumar, Bethany Bodo

**1. Topic 1: [“Pathways to General Education: Data Use Statement \(Nov. 2018\)”](#) (led by Nicolin Girmes-Grieco)**

Presenters: Dr. Thulasi Kumar, Associate Vice Provost for Academic Decision Support, and Ms. Bethany Bodo, Director of Assessment and Evaluation

- Dr. Kumar and Ms. Bodo provided a general discussion about the uses of the data.
- Faculty senators provided input on critical issues, including the importance of focusing on the Pathways program, not faculty.
- A question was asked about generating and analyzing data SPOT evaluation results in aggregate (not by faculty member), and it was noted that this would be possible.
- Question from the Senate: What has been the response rate from faculty in terms of submitting the data? Response: There were 1100 sections of Pathways courses last fall; 60-70% of the those sections submitted something, and usable data was received from 40% of the sections. This response rate is considered very encouraging for the first time through the offering of Pathways courses.

**2. Topic 2: Officer Election Discussions (led by Hans Robinson)**

Key issues:

- Hicok is not willing to serve as President, but is willing to stay as Vice President.
- Ferris is willing to serve one more year as President, but his term as an elected Senator by his department ends this year.
- The Cabinet has proposed a new position, President-Elect, as a way to provide continuity and “training” for new presidents without requiring that the current Vice President agree to stand for President. Robinson noted that we can’t officially create the position right now because it requires a change to the Constitution and Bylaws. We can, however, note that Jim Hawdon, who has agreed to serve as President-Elect, would be a good candidate for this position.
- Eric Kauffman has volunteered to serve as Secretary; no other nominations have been received to date.

- Nominations are still open.

*Discussion from the Senate*

- Question: Why not make the Vice President the president elect?
- Comment: It is great that Hicok and Ferris are willing to continue in their roles. Senators see great value in having people with both the desire and relevant expertise in those positions.
- Comment; The two roles (President and Vice President) are very different, and just because someone is willing and able to do one role does not mean that they are able and willing to do the other. The same could be said of the role of Secretary.
- Comment: The President should have had the experience of chairing the Commission on Faculty Affairs (currently assigned to the Vice President).
- Comment: Not all past Senate Presidents had this experience.
- Comment: The President-Elect will still have a significant role in Senate governance even if they are not the Vice President.
- Significant discussion followed regarding whether the Vice President needed to be the President Elect. There was wide support for recognizing that while the two positions might often be held by the same person, there is value in separating them and allowing individuals to stand only for one office.
- Question: What is the role of the President-Elect? This will have to be defined in cases where the President-Elect is not the Vice President.
- Comment: According to our current roles, the President does not need to have served as Vice President (or any previous officer position) and the Vice President is not required to stand for President.
- Comment: The position of President-Elect allows us to split the work currently being done by 2 people across 3 people.

Note: The Secretary had to leave the meeting at this point, so no further detailed minutes were taken.

**3. Topic 3: Discussion of principles of governance in preparation for the “President's Committee on Governance.” (led by Bob Hicok)**

**4. New Business**

- Resolution to change bylaws for elections
- Resolutions for Senate consideration
  - [SGA Resolution on Religious/Cultural Absences - -](#) Following robust discussion, the resolution was returned to the SGA for additional work, with plans for more discussions with a range of relevant groups to help craft a resolution that can be supported and implemented.
  - [GSA Resolution for University Divestment from Fossil Fuels](#) – Senators expressed a wide range of opinions with no clear consensus. A number of senators agree with the sentiment behind the resolution, but cannot support it in its current form.
  - [CSA Resolution on Policy Violations Motivated by Bias](#) – the Senate waived its right to comment.

- [LFA Continued Appointment Process](#) - The Senate supports the current progress on this matter.

## **5. Adjourn**

The Senate adjourned.