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Faculty Senate Minutes April 1, 2024

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April 1, 2024
3:00 – 4:30 pm
Merrill Cazier Library – 154

MINUTES

Call to Order - Maureen Hearn

Approval of Minutes – [March 4, 2024](#)

Minutes approved as distributed.

University Business - Elizabeth Cantwell, President | Larry Smith, Provost

Provost Smith – Athletics has March madness, but academics has April madness. So many things are going on right now. Last week we held the annual Faculty Awards Ceremony, and this is one of the provost's favorite events of the year. It is great to be able to honor extraordinary performance amongst the faculty. All faculty should have received an email this morning regarding the Presidential Investiture encouraging and inviting all faculty to attend and be part of this historic event. This Friday the Board of Trustees will meet in the morning to deal with promotion and tenure and then faculty will be informed of the decisions next Friday afternoon. In a couple of weeks the president and provost will begin travel for the various statewide campus commencement ceremonies.

President Cantwell – Not a lot of updates. She pointed to the fact that USHE is developing guidance for many of the higher ed bills that were passed this year. HB261 – DEI bill will be going out soon. There is a council of presidents meeting where they will discuss a few items on that bill. She will bring things forward when the major components look like they are going to shift. She also has a detailed outline of the finance side. Still getting a 3% increase. This is not part COLA and part merit. It is all base, there will be no merit component this year. Will have more on this later and how we will deal with the pay structure issues. Discussed creating a shared governance committee. One of the most important things is having a Box folder available this summer that has state legislation, USHE policy and USU policy in it for review. Hopefully by June the legislation will be available, and we will have some sort of guidance. Our policies will not have changed at that point. We still need to look at all of it. What is useful is the continuing discussions of shared governance. We do have to own our own shared governance fate. We have an obligation, as an institution, to be in front of this issue. This is our opportunity to stay engaged. The president is looking at having three presidential appointees and then decide the other makeup of the committee. This should not be too big as that may hinder forward progress. Looking at approximately 10 people. She would like to have the committee report out every April.

Faculty Senate Business - Maureen Hearn | John Ferguson | Grant Cardon

Faculty Code Being Held - John Ferguson

After hearing about all the faculty code updates want to let you know that the code is being pulled back and held at this point. Due to the change in the Board of Trustees and concerns in legal the President has asked that we put a hold on faculty code right now. Code 405 and on will remain the same as is currently written. The Faculty Senate Presidency would like to bring forth commendations for those who served on the faculty code rewrite committee. Any modifications or changes need to be taken to PRPC.

We were hoping to have a Faculty Forum on April 10 to help kick off the shared governance. Not able to pull all the pieces together. Canceled the Faculty Forum.

Grant Cardon – Save-the-date for the joint task force SEA. Exploring childcare on campus. The idea of the open forum is to introduce the current offerings. There were 144 families who have put their names on waiting lists and there are 80 students who need practicum. We hope to be able to assist them in this endeavor. Get data on short- and long-term needs. The meeting will take place on April 24 in the Life Sciences building and starts at 12:00 pm and ends at 5:00 pm. Come at one of the times that will fit your schedule. They will be repeating sessions every 45 minutes. This is an exciting opportunity to get the data. This is a need for the staff as well as the faculty.

Information

Education Policies Committee – [March 7, 2024](#) - Paul Barr

General Education Subcommittee – no meeting/minutes.

Academic Standards Subcommittee – no meeting/minutes.

Curriculum Subcommittee – Curriculog is closed so there are no course changes.

Updated CIP Code changes for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. There were 42 proposals that were stuck in the approval process. These will be deleted and need to be started over in July.

[Presidential Investiture](#) | Faculty Forum – Maureen Hearn

Part of shared governance is being part of events for the Presidential Investiture. Please attend the investiture in full regalia. This is an incredibly important event.

Limited English Proficiency (LEP) [Draft Policy](#) | [Procedure](#) | [Summary](#) - Matt Pinner

Policy 521 – Limited English Proficiency. This is federally required as a condition of our receipt of federal funding.

Reports

N/A

Old Business

N/A

New Business

[Administrator Evaluation Discussion](#) - James Morton

Faculty members are not asked to evaluate their department heads. Each college does these evaluations differently. Is this a problem campus wide or is it an isolated issue? Department Heads & Deans are evaluated yearly by their supervisor. Every 5 years the faculty are involved in the evaluation process. If a Department Head changes the clock starts over and that could be why faculty have not been involved in the process. Please talk with your colleagues regarding faculty involvement in evaluating deans and department heads. Also look at a mechanism on how to provide faculty feedback. Think about and discuss how faculty can be more involved and do we need a written policy for this? Policy 104 is where you can find information. This may be perfectly fine the way it is working right now. Do we think it needs to happen sooner than every five years? The feedback mechanism is extremely important. An evaluation does not have to be a negative thing, it can be positive as well. The provost is not opposed to evaluating department heads and deans sooner than every five years, however, they shouldn't be done every year. Need to explore an alternative way. Use IDEA every five years and come up with another mechanism.

Motion to create ad hoc committee made by John Ferguson. Seconded by Nate Trauntvein. Carolyn Ball volunteered to chair the committee. Unanimous decision.

Faculty Senate Elections - Maureen Hearn

- President Elect Nominations
 - Todd Griffith

- Committee on Committees
 - Ryan Knowles

- Honorary Degrees & Awards Committee
 - James Norton
 - Cree Taylor
 - Mikhail Maxfield
 - Mair Murray
 - John Ferguson
 - Kelly Fadel
 - Mona Buhusi

Adjourn: 4:15 pm