

Minutes of the University Senate Meeting  
December 5, 2013

1.

The December meeting of the University Senate was held at 4:05 p.m. on Thursday, December 7, 2013 in Room 113, Education. Chair Ryan Zerr presided.

2.

The following members of the Senate were present:

Anderson, Ernest	Halgren, Cara	Oberg, Alan
Anderson, Suzanne	Hanson, Lexi	Rakow, Lana
Antonova, Slavka	Harsell, Dana	Rami, Manish
Baker, Mary	Hill, Robert	Ray, Linda
Casler, James	Hillebrand, Diane	Reesor, Lori
Cherry, Emily	Hume, Wendelin	Reissig, Brad
Combs, Barbara	Jeno, Sue	Shafer, Richard
De Long, Loretta	Keeley, Kim	Smart, Kathy
Dennis, Steven	Kelley, Robert	Smith, Bruce
Dewar, Graeme	Khavanin, Mohammad	Stolt, Wilbur
DiLorenzo, Thomas	Kuntz, Susan	Stone, Jan
Doze, Van	Laguette, Soizik	Storrs, Debbie
El-Rewini, Hesham	Lemire, Steve	Sum, Paul
Ernst, Julia	McHenry, Laurie	Towne, Gary
Fazel-Rezai, Reza	Mikulak, Marcia	Walker, Anne
Gedafa, Daba	Mitzell, John	Walton, Susan
Geiger, Jonathan	Munski, Doug	Zerr, Ryan
Gjellstad, Melissa	Noghanian, Sima	

3.

The following members of the Senate were absent:

Allmer, Alison	Keengwe, Jared	Rice, Dan
Barkdull, Carenlee	Kurtz, Sharley	Schultz, Kasey
Berg, Kate	Lawrence, Shaina	Sturges, Denyse
Brekke, Alice	Lien, Ross	Suleiman, Nabil
Burke, Molly	Light, Steven	Swisher, Wayne
Campbell, Katherine	Marasinghe, Kanishka	Thorson, Kyle
Creamer, Nick	Masko, Meganne	Urlacher, Brian
Elbert, Dennis	Maury, Debra	Weber, Brett
Hoffert, Rachel	McGinniss, Michael	Worley, Paul
Jackson, Jon	Petros, Thomas	Wynne, Joshua
Johnson, Brett	Poochigian, Donald	Young, Tim
Johnson, Phyllis	Porter, Kim	
Kalka, Joseph	Rand, Kathryn	

4.

The following announcements were made:

- a. Janelle Kilgore, Director of Financial Aid, described a change to final grading due to the Department of Education's last date of attendance rule. She described how faculty should determine the last date of attendance. Ms. Anderson illustrated how Campus Connection grading has been changed to accommodate this requirement. Discussion ensued.
- b. Mr. Zerr shared with the Senate that he will report when Senate actions have final approval. He then reported that the Definition of a Credit Hour, including online courses is officially approved as policy.

- c. The Committee on Committees reported the appointment of Jesse Rhoades to the Vice President of Research Policy and Procedures Committee. It was also reported that the Committee on Committees will be sending the preferences for committees request in January.
- d. Mr. Zerr indicated that the next possible Senate meeting is in January. He requested that senators please hold January 16 in case the meeting is needed. SEC will make the decision before the end of December. The February Senate meeting will be held as usual.
- e. The Faculty Handbook Committee is working to split the current Handbook into two sections. The first will be the Organization and Services Guide. The Committee has updated the first of three parts of the Organizations and Services Guide. The second section will be called the Faculty Handbook. There will be more information coming later.

5.

Mr. Zerr called attention to the minutes of the November 7, 2013 meeting. There were no additions or corrections to the minutes. There was a motion of approval by Mr. Munski and a second by Ms. Stone. The minutes were approved as distributed.

6.

The question period was opened at 4:32 p.m.

1. There was an update on the Writers Conference from the question period at the last meeting. Dean Storrs spoke of the work that is being done to financially support the Conference. She requested any ideas to raise funds. The spring 2014 Conference will be April 2-4, which is a reduction in the number of days. The University has agreed to support the Conference. Crystal Alberts, co-chair of the Conference, gave a description of the conference and the authors attending. The question was raised on how faculty can assist in raising funds. Ms. Storrs spoke of how the faculty could share with the community the value of the Conference. Faculty can also give financially. Grants are being written and have been throughout the year. Eric Wolfe, co-chair of the Conference, shared the general cost and how the cost was covered in the past. His information revealed that with no University funding, there is a significant amount to raise.
2. Mr. Geiger asked Provost DiLorenzo about the reorganization of the Vice President of Research to report to the Provost. Mr. DiLorenzo described that the intent was to promote academics and research working more closely and this being a more seamless ways to support the faculty. There have not been many changes yet but he hopes to make more next semester. He will have information on metrics and benchmarks at that time as well. Mr. Geiger asked if there will be goals set. Mr. DiLorenzo responded absolutely and they will be articulated.

The question period closed at 4:44 p.m.

7.

Mr. Zerr called attention to the annual report from the Senate Legislative Affairs Committee. Ms. Smart moved to accept and file the two annual reports. There was a second by Ms. Gjellstad. The motion was approved.

8.

The Curriculum Committee report was presented. Mr. Zerr pointed out the new programs and two new courses in the section that required Senate approval. Ms.

Baker moved approval. Mr. Munski seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. The vote was taken and the Curriculum Report was approved.

9.

Mr. Zerr called attention to list of candidates for graduation in December. He indicated that there was one additional name, Silas Pera. Mr. Harsell moved approval. Mr. Towne seconded the motion. The list with the one addition was approved.

10.

The proposed Senate committee changes for the Senate Executive Committee, Committee on Committees and Legislative Affairs were reviewed. Mr. Munski moved to approve the proposed changes to all three committees. The motion was seconded by Mr. Oberg and approved.

11.

The recommendations by the Academic Cabinet to the Tenure and Promotion policy were reviewed. The first recommendation is to section ii.5.3.B.2 to remove the Graduate Dean from the process. The second is adding new language to section P II.8.2. Mr. Zerr asked for a motion to the two items. Mr. Munski moved to approve them as a package. The motion was seconded by Mr. Towne. Discussion ensued. Mr. Geiger asked about the procedure for the SMHS where the Provost is not the Vice President for that college. Mr. Sum indicated that there is a section in the Faculty Handbook that states this portion does not apply to the SMHS. There was a friendly amendment to remove "such as instructor" in part 11.8.2. P. b. The friendly amendment was accepted by Mr. Munski and Mr. Towne. Ms. Rakow moved to table until the next meeting. A second was made by Mr. Towne. Mr. DiLorenzo asked whether the second change was already in the handbook. It was clarified that it was all new handbook language. A vote was taken and the motion to table was approved. This item will be on the agenda for the next Senate meeting.

12.

The final item was a proposed change to the Constitution. Mr. Zerr indicated that this must be acted on at two Senate meetings. He gave background information for the proposed change. Mr. Munski moved to approve. There was a second by Mr. Sum. Mr. Towne shared information from the Faculty Handbook and urged careful consideration before acting on the matter. Discussion continued. Mr. Towne move to table until personnel issues in the Faculty Handbook could be gathered together and that the information is more easily found and understood. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rakow. Mr. Sum, chair of the Faculty Handbook Committee, indicated that the request for the new Faculty Handbook section will not be coming soon. There was discussion regarding tabling the matter. Motion to table failed. The vote occurred on the motion to approve the recommended Constitution amendment and the motion was approved. This matter will come again to Senate at the next meeting.

13.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Suzanne Anderson  
Secretary to the Senate