

Faculty Senate Minutes 9-18-20

Submitted by Danny Collum, Faculty Senate Secretary

1. Call to Order

Meeting began with quorum, 9:05 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda [5 minute time limit]

Agenda was amended to include discussion of spring academic calendar in the time for President's Report and to delete the Ombudsman's Report. Agenda approved as amended.

3. Approve Meeting minutes from 9/4/2020 [5 minute time limit]

Minutes approved with two amendments: Correction of "Covid-29" to "Covid-19" and correction to list Sharon McGee among attending senators, not as a guest. Minutes approved with those amendments.

4. Faculty Senate President Report [10 minute time limit]

President Keeler met with President Brown and discussed plans for accreditation for the public affairs program. Also raised was terminal degree compensation. Some faculty who have completed a terminal degree recently haven't gotten expected compensation. President Brown indicated that he wanted a resolution from the Senate on faculty salary compression. The issue will be on the agenda for the December Board of Regents meeting.

President Keeler then recognized Kim Sipes from Academic Affairs to present alternatives for the spring academic calendar. The current calendar would have faculty return January 4 and classes begin January 9. This needs to be revisited in light of the continuing pandemic in order to avoid holidays, three-day weekends and the accompanying student travel. Two alternatives to accomplish this were presented. One

would begin Wednesday January 20, 2021 (the Wednesday after MLK Day), eliminate Spring Break, and end May 7. The second would begin January 25, 2021, eliminate spring break and all other holidays (i.e. President's Day and Good Friday) and end May 7. A poll of the senators indicated a clear preference for the second option (beginning January 25). A motion was made, seconded and approved to authorize the Senate Executive Committee to draw up a revised academic calendar for Wintermester and Spring 2021 in line with those parameters.

In addition, there was discussion of the possibility of some programs running two eight-week sessions during the semester. Deputy Provost Beverly Schneller indicated that this possibility was open for programs that might choose it, so long as the longer class meetings the eight-week model may require didn't conflict with times for 16-week semester classes.

Questions were also raised about whether continuing the current level of online course delivery would meet SACS-COC requirements. Dr. Schneller said that SACS-COC has approved KSU for up to 100 percent online for this semester. They hadn't extended that yet, but probably would. In any case, even this semester, we are within the bounds of what we are approved for normally by SACS-COC in terms of our percentage of classes online.

Next, President Keeler brought forward a draft resolution from the Professional Concerns Committee on modes of instruction delivery for Spring 2021. The resolution asks the university president and provost to continue multiple modes of instruction as are being deployed this semester, with the mode of delivery in each case to be determined by the discretion of individual faculty and the needs of the particular

program. After discussion of the specific text of the resolution, it was amended to change a reference to “formats” to “delivery methods.” In the course of this discussion, Dr. Schneller affirmed that the language, “as per discretion of individual faculty,” reflected the policy of the university, set by President Brown.

After this discussion, a motion and second were made, and the resolution was approved.

5. Updates from Academic Affairs and Assessment/IE activities [10 minute time limit]
 - a. Gray Associates Program Economics workshop update

Gray Associates is a consulting firm that has been contracted to supply data for universities to use in evaluating new and existing academic programs. Evaluation is based on a four-part grid: Student Demand, Degree Fit, Employment and Competition. The database will be housed in Institutional Research.

Also, Dr. Schneller announced that KSU has applied to become a member of the Council on Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC). The COPLAC site visit is coming soon.

6. Academic Policy Committee report [15 minute time limit]
 - a. Academic Integrity Statement Action item

APC Chair, Buddhi Gyawali submitted a revised text for the Academic Integrity Statement considered at the last meeting. Again, questions were raised about consequences for violation of the terms of the statement and about where it would be published. Senator Gyawali answered that consequences were already covered in the Student Handbook and that the statement would be put into the standard syllabus and the faculty handbook and recommended for inclusion in the student and staff handbooks.

President Keeler called for a motion to vote, and there was none. He returned the measure to APC with the recommendation that the committee work with Dr. Schneller on the best next steps.

10 minutes were added for additional items from APC.

Senator Gyawali raised the questions of whether the faculty wanted to consider allowing a “Pass/Fail” option for student grades, as was done for the spring semester due to the emergency transition to online instruction. He also raised the question of whether faculty evaluations would be done this semester, and would they count for annual evaluations and promotion and tenure. These are issues that APC may be considering at future meetings. During this discussion, President Keeler ran an online poll of the senate which came out 11 against Pass/Fail for this semester and seven for it. He suggested that perhaps a survey of the entire faculty would be helpful for our consideration of this issue.

6. Curriculum Committee report [10 minute time limit]

Curriculum Committee had no action items. Chair Changzheng Wang reported that the main item of business at their last meeting was consideration of a request for the director of Institutional Effectiveness to be made an ex officio, non-voting member of the FSCC. Rationale for this was to help the committee with matters of program alignment and assessment. Senator Wang reported that the committee rejected this proposal because of concern that an “ex-officio” member would, by definition, be a full member of the committee, which means voting. The committee requests instead that the director of Institutional Effectiveness become a permanent liason to the curriculum committee. President Keeler said he would communicate this to the provost.

7. Professional Concerns Committee report [10 minute time limit]

Vice-Chair Bruce Griffis reported that the committee discussed policy for selection of deans and chairs and the salary compression resolution, but has no action items ready at this time.

8. Budget and Academic Support Committee report [10 minute time limit]

Chair, Senator Noel Novelo, reported that the BASC discussed “Incomplete” policy, education technology access, especially for rural and low income students, faculty salaries and potential for a KSU chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP).

President Keeler urged the BASC to work together with Professional Concerns Committee on the salary compression issue as there is some urgency to get a faculty statement into the process when the Board of Regents takes up this issue in December.

9. Other Business [10 minute time limit]

There was no “other business.”

12. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.

Attendees:

Senators

Daniel D Collum
Dr. Donovan L. Ramon
Dr. Helen Margaret Smith
Jason Michael Keeler
Jens Hannemann
Alexander Lai
Barbara Witty
Jennifer Ballard-Kang
Johnathon Sharp
Leigh Whittinghill

Nancy Capriles
Noel Novelo
Patti Marraccini
Rene Desborde
Sharon McGee
Shawn Lucas
Keith McCutcheon
Dr. Phillip Clay
Fariba Bigdeli-Jahed
Fariba Kashan

Gary Stratton
Gavin Washington
Herman Walston

Bruce Griffis
Buddhi Gyawali
Changzheng Wang

Senators Absent: Monica Valentine, Ibukun (Mike) Ogunande, Emmanuel Amadife,

Guests

Ann Lyttle-Burns
Anonymous Caller 1
Ban #2
Beverly Schneller
David Shabazz
Debra Tate
James Obielodan
Joe Moffett
John Sedlacek
Ken Andries
Kim Sipes
Kirk Pomper
Lauren Graves
Sheila Stuckey