**Faculty Senate Minutes**

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

Zoom Meeting, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Attending Senators:** Gwynne Ellen Ash, Janet Bezner, Dale Blasingame, Rachel Davenport, Peter Dedek, Jennifer Jensen, Lynn Ledbetter, Vincent Luizzi, Benjamin Martin, Stan McClellan, Roque Mendez, Andrew Ojede, Michael Supancic, Nicole Wesley

**Guests:** Geneva Gano, Christine Sellers, Marilyn Espericueta, Aimee Roundtree, Chris Russian, Twister Marquiss, De De Gardner, J.D. Jamieson, Joni S. J. Charles, Judy Oskam, Karen Sigler, Tina Marie Cade (Senate Fellow), Scott Pope (Library), Crystal Oberle, Lucia Summers Rodriguez, Susan Weill

Senate Chair Bezner called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm

**Common Experience**

Twister Marquiss presented information about the Common Experience program. Mr. Marquiss urged senators to let him know about suggestions or ideas they may hear from students about Common Experience requests.

**Draft Personnel Committee Policy Discussion**

Senator Ledbetter presented an outline of recommendations for the draft Personnel Committee Requirements policy developed in collaboration with senators McClellan, Ojede and Dr. Beth Erhart (AGC). Senators discussed moving forward with the recommendation to add an external observer at PC meetings despite the idea not being supported vocally by several attendees at the Joint Council of Academic Deans, Council of Chairs, Faculty Senate Meeting on September 24, 2020. Senators discussed the potential role, responsibilities, and reporting procedures for an external observer. A senator brought up concerns they had heard that an external observer may limit comfortable discussion by PC members and that bad actors on the PC would not necessarily limit their actions to the PC meeting. Senators discussed problems with PC members voting on tenure and/or promotion without having reviewed a candidate’s materials.

Senators agreed to share the draft Personnel Committee Requirements document with the Academic Governance Committee.

**Discussion of October 7 PAAG Agenda**

Senators discussed items for inclusion on the October 7, 2020 PAAG agenda. Potential items included:

* Discussion of NLF expectations for scholarly/creative activity as measures of evaluation for promotion. Senators agreed to table this item for later discussion.
* The COVID testing kiosk and an update about testing rates and outcomes.
* The rationale for canceling Spring Break, yet having students return to campus after Thanksgiving Break, and the possible transition to remote instruction after Thanksgiving break.
* Clarification about Summer 2021 budgets and cuts to administrative pay. Specifically, which administrative salaries are planned for cuts in the summer? Additionally, whether the PAAG anticipate fewer faculty volunteering to teach Summer 2021 courses given the 10% reduction in summer course salaries.
* Discussion of Fall Commencement plans and why in-person and virtual commencements are being planned in parallel, especially since an in-person commencement will come at significant financial cost to the university.
* Discussion regarding whether the administration plans continue to allocate a significant amount of student fees to athletics, or whether student fees will be reallocated to reflect the current and future needs of the larger student body particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Discussion of October Senate Liaisons Meeting Agenda October 21**

Senators discussed potential topics for the upcoming Senate Liaisons Meeting including updating liaisons about the PC recommendations presented by Senator Ledbetter. Senators agreed to solicit agenda items from the liaisons directly to facilitate increased liaison engagement with the senate.

**Follow up from Joint Meeting of CAD, CoC and Faculty Senate**

Senator Bezner provided senators with an update on the Civility policy, which is being finalized and will not include references or guidelines to address bullying or harassment. Dr. Silva (Office of Equity and Inclusion) thought there was enough support to have a separate bullying/harassment policy. Senator Bezner will follow up with Dr. Silva about moving forward with the bullying/harassment policy.

**October Faculty Senate Bulletin**

Valerie Anderson provided an overview of topics and announcements to be included in the October Faculty Senate Bulletin.

**Appointment of Nicole Wesley to serve on Academic Governance Committee**

Senators agreed to appoint Senator Wesley to serve on the AGC.

**Policy review**

UPPS 05.03.11 Wireless Cellular Communication Services, due October 6 (Senator Jensen)

UPPS 05.07.02 Parking and Transportation, due October 14 (Senator Blasingame)

**Approval of minutes**

Senators voted to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2020 meeting.

**General discussion**

A senator asked for clarification of changes made to the NLF Career Path Proposal. They specifically wanted to know who added the scholarship/creative activity expectations and why the proposal was different from what the senate approved on April 29, 2020. Senator Bezner explained that there is wide support for the proposal, the policy is still being widely circulated for review, and the senate will have another opportunity to provide input. Senator Bezner suggested adding this topic to the October 7 senate agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 6:03 pm

Minutes submitted by Jennifer Jensen