

# Fairmont State University Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

**March 17, 2020**

**Members Present:** Matt Hokom (President, L&L), Donna Long (Vice President, L&L, virtual), Tom Cuchta (Webmaster, CS/MATH, virtual), Todd Clark (Ex. Comm, Social Sciences, virtual), Harry Baxter (Ex. Comm, ACF, virtual), Jim Davis (Ex. Comm, Business, virtual), Jason Noland (Secretary, SoE), Nathan Myers (L&L), Denice Kirchoff (Nursing), Jennifer Satterfield (Nursing), Janet Floyd (Business), Tim Oxley (Academic Affairs), Paul Reneau (HHP), Musat Crihalmeanu (Sci-Tech), Troy Snyder (Proxy for Eichenbaum, Performing Arts), Chuck Shields (Soc. Sci), Nina Slota (CoLa/Psych/Beh. Sci), Steve Roof (Academic Affairs), Molly Barra (Library), Budd Sapp (BoG).

**Visitors Present:** Laura Clayton (Nursing), Zac Fancher (student), Spencer Tyce (Soc. Sci), Sharon Smith (SoE).

Called to order 3:18

Thanks for your patience as we got the video conference set up. We have a compressed agenda today.

## **I. Minutes**

- Reading and Approval of Minutes of February 11, 2019 meeting

**Motion to approve the minutes (Harry/Paul). Passed.**

## **II. Announcements/Information/Discussion**

- Core Curriculum Update
  - Removed from the agenda given the change in meeting structure in an attempt to condense the agenda.
- Parking policy update
  - Unavailable due to change in operations for COVID-19
- President Martin
  - Unavailable due to change in operations for COVID-19
- Provost Harvey
  - Unavailable due to change in operations for COVID-19

### **BOG representative, Prof. Sapp**

- They were supposed to have EC and bylaws meeting last Thursday, switched it to an emergency full Board meeting that met completely in executive session. Nothing public done
- Upcoming meetings Academic Affairs Committee March 30<sup>th</sup>
- Finance Committee on April 1<sup>st</sup>
- Enrollment Committee on April 7
- They are encouraging all BoG to attend meetings either face-to-face or virtually
- For the Full Board meeting all 12 were present in some form
- BoG meeting scheduled for April 16. Will send agenda when it comes

Question: Why isn't anyone from admin in attendance? I don't know, I can only paraphrase. Dr. Martin did send an email that they have other things to do because of the crisis.

### **ACF representative, Prof. Baxter**

- SB 760 allowing state colleges or univ to apply to HEPC for designation as administratively or financially exempt school. Passed, does not give any names of institutions. Reading the bill it seems that for FSU this process will take at least 1 year, maybe 2.
- Another bill that will effect a number of us HB 4729 requiring Higher Education institutions to use the previous versions or editions of instructional materials. I don't know exactly what the ramifications will be, but, they are trying to desperately reduce textbook costs for students.

### **Student Government**

- Unavailable, students are not on campus this week

### **III. Unfinished Business**

- Senate Resolution in support of an inclusive campus
  - Senate Executive Committee recommends this wait in order to condense the agenda given current conditions.

### **IV. New Business**

Curriculum Proposal 19-20-10, History, First Reading

Curriculum Proposal 19-20-13, Nursing, First Reading

Curriculum Proposal 19-20-14, Nursing, First Reading

Curriculum Proposal 19-20-17, Mathematics, First Reading

Curriculum Proposal 19-20-18, Honors, First Reading

**Motion to bring all proposals to the table for first reading Oxley/Reneau. Passed.**

**Motion to approve all proposals for first reading Denice/Floyd. Passed**

-I have had requests that we waive the rules to approve for second reading.

**Motion to waive the time period. Reneau/Denice. Passed**

**Motion to approve all proposals for second reading. Clark/Reneau. Passed**

## **V. Open Forum**

Student: emailed in advance Dr. Hokom and Executive Committee a letter I forwarded to Dr. Martin, Dr. Harvey and the BOG regarding a procedural change. That is, the amount a student can have on their account before a student will have a hold and unable to register for class. It changed from \$2,000 to \$200 when a hold is triggered. I understand this [Senate] is not Student Government. My hope is that Senate will also ask the administration to change this position. Students have said this will place a heavy burden on them and their families given the \$1800 difference, and the crisis we are in. Students are worried this will further perpetuate the financial burdens. Students should be more worried about taking care of their families instead of paying the account balance. I am also taking this to Student Government when we meet

Comment: History on this issue. The hold used to be \$2000, now has been lowered to \$200. I recall when Dr. Martin came in, one of her complaints was that students were having holds placed on their accounts for miniscule amounts, so it was changed.

Dr. Oxley. Hold amount was \$2000 in 18-19.

Question: Did administration give a written rationale for the reduction?

Response: There was some discussion in meetings, I can't remember the specifics. It is complex enough that we need to have them come discuss it with us. It [raising the amount to \$2,000] has made students able to hold larger balances, which they do eventually need to pay off.

Comment (student): I do understand the rationale for wanting to bring it down, but \$1800 is not necessarily, I make \$1500 working for FSU in the summer. I think more thorough discussions

with students and families in order to bring that down should happen. Students have said it will make the difference between them being here and having to go back home. It is incredibly concerning. I really hope the administration will change position

Question: Are we proposing that it be placed on the agenda?

Comment: We will do it with Executive Committee.

Question: Has there been a written rationale provided?

Response: I have not received one.

Question: What has SGA done, if anything?

Response: SGA has not met since. I have been trying to take this matter quietly as a private individual. SGA has not been able to meet. I am hopeful that they will discuss it and take it up as well.

Question: Do you not feel it is more an SGA issue than Faculty Senate?

Response: Yes, it is an SGA issue, but in talking to some faculty and staff they are also upset about this, and if we lose students that will be an everyone issue.

Question: It is just a dollar amount for any charge? Parking tickets, fees, etc.? A blanket \$2,000 and no other explanation?

Response: So, the change was lowering it from \$2,000 to \$200, it could be parking tickets, bookstore purchases, financial aid, printing fees, etc.

Comment: Okay, it sounds like something we can more fully address next month. We will let them know we have questions so they can be prepared to speak on this topic.

Comment: My understanding is the following: Before Dr. Martin came if a student had a \$10 parking ticket or anything whatsoever on their account they couldn't register. I think soon after Dr. Martin came to FSU it was raised to \$200, then quickly to \$2,000. That was done by the

administration. I've heard that they lost quite a bit of money by having it at \$2,000, they didn't get the money back that they were promised by the student, that is why they are dropping this back to \$200.

Response: Thank you for the context.

Question: When you contact the administration, can you ask them about the history of this? When did all of the changes take effect?

Comment: I think the rationale (Budd) is to increase retention. When they did exit surveys why students were leaving between semesters one was debt. Part of the rationale for lowering it was to increase retention. But, there hasn't been any public rationale for why it was raised back up.

**Motion to adjourn Oxley.**

**Next Meeting\*: April 14, 2020, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. 303 ED**

\*If you have items for the agenda please send your request to the Faculty Senate President by Tuesday morning April 7, 2020 for consideration by the Executive Committee.