

Faculty Senate Minutes  
December 8, 2015

Attendance: Robin Payne (Soc. Sci.), Jim Weekley (BCG), Kaitlynn Davis (SGA), Connor Haberland (SGA), Bob Mild (Academic Affairs), Dan Eichenbaum (SoFA), Amanda Metcalfe (SoEHHP), Crystal Smith (SoEHHP), Carolyn Crislip-Tacy (Academic Affairs/SoEHHP), Jennifer Yerdon LeJeune (SoFA), John McLaughlin (Soc. Sci.), Fran Young (Nursing), Anthony Yost (Tech), Tony Gilberti (Tech), Matthew Hokum (L&L), Deb Hoag (Nursing), Donna Long (L&L), Chris Kast (Beh. Sci.), Budd App (BOG), Chuck Shields (Senate President), Harry Baxter (ACF), Joe Kremer (SoB), Jessica Alsup (HHP)

Guests: Maria Rose, Chris Lavorata, Jack Kirby, Kay Widney, Tim Oxley, Cherri Wemlinger, J. Robert Baker, John Lympany

- I. The meeting was called to order.
- II. The minutes from the November 10, 2015 meeting were approved pending minor revisions.
- III. Announcements/Information/Discussion
  - A. President Rose Updates
    1. President Rose wished everyone a happy holiday season.
    2. The OASIS project is still delayed. The university does not know how long the delay will last; however, it is likely that the system will move forward by March or April with the shift from 24 to 26 pay periods.
    3. The Mercer Personnel Study for classified staff is moving forward. It is due to the Chancellor's office by January 15, 2016.
    4. Cindy Curry is currently on medical leave. Faculty and staff should see Jack Kirby, who has a background in HR, if they have personnel issues needing attention.
    5. The Chancellor continues to work on the single FEIN number, which will affect how many hours adjuncts can work. There will likely be under the FEIN number to refer to different institutions. This will likely be resolved by the time OASIS is implemented.
    6. It is anticipated that the state legislature will ass a "sin tax" on cigarettes and alcohol, with the funds raised used to compensate for shortfall in PEIA.
    7. There has already been a cut of 4% to the budget; however, that cut has only generated \$90 million and there is still a \$250 million shortfall. Budget forecasts are not improving and, if anything, are declining to the extent that the budget shortfall may reach \$300-\$400 million. It is inevitable the university will sustain another budget cut in the spring semester. The university will likely be notified of how much the cut will be in January. President Rose believes it is likely it may be another 4% cut.

8. Members of the state legislature will reportedly putting forward a “constitutional carry” regarding firearms. Leaders in the state educations system are very concerned about this in light of high rates of violence on campuses. Concerned faculty are urged to contact state legislators regarding this pending measure.
  - o This announcement sparked significant discussion among Faculty Senators. Senators asked for clarification about whether or not there would be an exemption for educational institutions and, if not, could faculty have their own classroom policies prohibiting firearms in their classrooms. President Rose explained that the university already prohibits having weapons on campus, but if the law passes without exemptions for higher education, faculty would be unable to enact such policies. The university could, however, require the completion of a safety course. Last year when a similar bill was passed by the state legislature (before being vetoed by Governor Tomblin), there were exemptions for higher education but it is unclear at this time whether current efforts to pursue such legislation would still contain those exemptions.
9. Higher Education Day is scheduled for January 19, 2016, which is the first day of classes. Members of the administration will be there with students in Charleston to ensure that the state legislature is aware of higher education concerns.

#### B. Report from Dr. Oxley

1. The Critical Friends group is moving forward on evaluating program level assessment using a new rubric. They hope to have the rubric completed by December 15, 2015 and plan to issue an institutional report that will provide the university with a snapshot of where we are with program accreditation.
2. The Criterion Chairs went to workshop on "standard pathway" and had a meeting on December 3 to discuss expectations.
3. A lock down date of September 12, 2016 has been established for the final institutional report with the HLC site visit to follow on October 10-1, 2016.
4. The Steering Committee met to discuss the strategic planning process and will continue with a workshop scheduled on January 12, 2016. They are also trying to develop a sustainable process to move through from cycle to cycle and are developing a draft plan which will go out to constituent groups for feedback. About 100 individuals are involved, 47% of which represent faculty interests.
5. In addition, the HEPC is really starting to hammer on the issue of transparency regarding how assessment data is shared on campus. As such, we must develop a way to share assessment with greater community.
6. During follow-up discussion, Oxley was asked if faculty can anticipate feedback or advice to their programs and how feedback will be conveyed. Oxley noted that feedback was forthcoming; however, the institutional report (scheduled for December 15, 2015) must be completed first.

#### C. BOG Representative — Budd Sapp

1. The BOG meeting has been changed from December 10, 2015 to December 17, 2015. He will share agenda once he has it. Faculty are asked to let him know of questions/ concerns they'd like him to bring to the meeting.
2. Sapp hopes that the participation of BOG members at the last meeting was a good chance to communicate. He thanked the President's Office for providing refreshments. Of the 12 members of the BOG, eight were present at the meeting. Sapp believes they took the Senate's comments to heart and have the best interest of faculty in mind.
3. The BOG has been invited to attend Legislative Roundtable on December 9, 2015. Pres. Rose says she knows at least one member will come. Sapp hopes as many faculty as possible will attend because it is important to have a critical mass representing faculty concerns.

#### D. ACF Representative — Harry Baxter

1. Baxter reminded the Senate of the Legislative Roundtable scheduled for December 9, 2015 from 4:00-600 pm in the third floor conference rooms in the Falcon Center. Twelve legislators are currently confirmed to attend. Mitch Moore, the SGA President, will speak. The more people there the better.
2. Baxter sent a report earlier in the week covering the College America conference, the HEPC meeting, the ACF meeting, and LOCEA meeting. At the ACF meeting there was a resolution regarding pending budget cuts to ask that academic programs be exempt from further cuts.
3. Baxter sees the potential open carry gun legislation as a serious potential problem and urges faculty to take action by contacting legislators.
  - Discussion followed as to whether or not the Faculty Senate could and should take action regarding this issue. In particular, the Senate discussed if a resolution from the Senate, affirming faculty opposition to having guns on campus, would be an effective means of reaching the state legislature. Baxter believed that yes, such a resolution would carry weight.
  - Further discussion addressed the history of the effort to pass similar legislation last year. While Governor Tomblin effectively vetoed the proposed bill last year, there is a growing belief that the legislature may pass a similar bill over his veto in the upcoming legislative session. The legislature would only need a simple majority to override the governor's veto.
  - Senators asked which legislators are behind the legislation and who we should be contacting. It is not yet evident who its main proponents are, but more information will become available when the legislative session begins on January 14, 2016.
  - Members of the Senate also voiced numerous concerns regarding the impact such a law could have on the campus community, which many expressing their desires to maintain a safe working and learning environment for everyone, the potential for security issues and confusion in an active shooter

situation, and the likelihood of accidents and incidents causing casualties on campus.

- Further discussion focused on what kind of action the Senate and individual faculty members can take and how to best get our concerns across to proponents of such legislation. The SGA representatives believed that the SGA will also be interesting in rallying to this cause and anticipate a special meeting may be held.
- Donna Long volunteered to draft a resolution for the Senate. A motion was made and passed, with one dissenting vote, to move forward with such a resolution.

#### E. Student Government

1. The SGA representatives reported that the SGA has been trying to combat student apathy and have revamped the constitution, adding amendments regarding the rights of the student body. They plan to expand the SGA to have more seats and be more inclusive and are also expanding the number of recognized groups on campus who are allowed to have a representative seat on SGA. In so doing, they hope to bring another 10-15 members and to build more student involvement. They have also started to hold town hall meetings where students can voice concerns and plan to continue doing so during the spring semester.
2. The first above-mentioned town hall meetings have been held in residence halls and were relatively well attended. One major concern voiced has had to do with how spotty wi-fi connections impact student abilities to complete their course work.
  - John Lympany reported that staff are checking into these concerns about wi-fi and hope to have faster wireless access that can handle multiple connections in the residence halls. There are also plans to migrate older dormitories to newer technology. He encourages students to contact the Help Desk when they experience problems in order to determine the source of connectivity issues. IT staff and Lympany are happy to help however they can.

### III. Unfinished Business

#### A. Minor Business

1. Faculty Senate Charge to Faculty Welfare Committee regarding hiring practices at FSU
  - There was a motion to consider Donna Long's draft of the charge.
  - Discussion followed regarding whether or not anyone on the Faculty Welfare Committee had been consulted regarding the draft. Members of the Faculty Welfare Committee who were presented reported that the committee had not met and had therefore not discussed the matter yet.
  - Dan Eichenbaum had spoken with Sam Spears, the Chair of the Faculty Welfare Committee, who reported that he had not seen the draft. Donna Long reminded the Senate, however, that at the last

Senate meeting, the Faculty Welfare Committee had said they would not consider the matter without a charge — which the Senate was now trying to provide.

- There was no further discussion and the motion to accept the charge passed unanimously.

## B. New Business

### 1. Major Business

- a. Curriculum Proposal 15-16-01 (first reading)
- b. Curriculum Proposal 15-16-02 (first reading)
- c. Curriculum Proposal 15-16-03 (first reading)
- d. Curriculum Proposal 15-16-04 (first reading)
  - There was a motion to consider all four proposals as a group. Pending discussion to confirm that the second reading for any of the proposals could be waived if all four were considered as a group, the motion passed.
  - There was no significant discussion regarding the proposals aside from minor typographical corrections.
  - There was a motion to accept all four proposals for first reading. The motion passed.
  - Dan Eichenbaum moved to waive the waiting period on Curriculum Proposal 15-16-02 regarding African Ensemble in order to ensure that it was included in the course catalog for next fall Jack Kirby said that there is still plenty of time for curriculum revisions to make it into the catalog and that it was not necessary to waive the waiting period. The motion died without a second.
- e. Proposed Revisions to Senate By-laws
  - Technology Committee added as a standing committee
    - ☐ There was previously a charge to have the Technology Committee become a standing committee of the Senate; however, there must be a change to the by-laws before moving forward. The Senate must have 30 days notice for changes to the by-laws, so the first reading must wait until the January meeting.
  - Common Book Committee added as a standing committee
    - ☐ The minutes reflect that we have voted to do this in the past, but it was not presented as a change to by-laws. It has been included as a business item here in order to ensure that it becomes a standing committee according to proper procedure. . . . so included here to ensure it was added as a standing

- Officer succession procedure
  - This seems to have been an ad-hoc process in the past with the Vice President of the Faculty Senate typically stepping up in event that President has to resign. Senate President Shields will send out a proposed revision to by-laws to outline this process.
- A motion was made and seconded to consider these three revisions and vote on them in January. The motion passed.

## 2. Minor Business

- There was no minor business.

## VI. Open Forum

- Bob Mild has received phone calls/emails regarding music (currently selections from *Rent*) being played over loudspeakers on campus. In the past bells chimed every hour but this fell out of practice. The School of Fine Arts is hoping to resume that practice, partly in order to promote musical on campus. There have been some concerns regarding disruptions and interruptions to classes and final exams; however, Mild thinks it's positive to promote music, etc. Interested parties can send comments/requests to him. For the time being, music will be played at 9:00 a.m, noon, and 3:00 p.m.
- Harry Baxter issued a final reminder regarding the Legislative Roundtable scheduled for December 9, 2015. Faculty, students, and staff will all have the opportunity to ask questions.

## VII. The meeting was adjourned.