

Faculty Senate Minutes
March 8, 2016

Attendance: Robin Payne (Soc. Sci.), Anthony Yost (Tech.), Fran Young (Nursing), Kaitlynn Davis (SGA), Veronica Gallo (Nursing), Joe Kremer (Business), Crystal Smith (SOE/HHP), John McLaughlin (Soc. Sci.), Jennifer Yerdon LeJeune (SoFA), Charley Hively (Library), Tony Gilberti (Sci-Tech), Donna Long (L&L), Chris Kast (Beh. Sci.), Charles Shields (Faculty Senate President), Harry Baxter (ACF), G. Budd Sapp (BOG), Julie Reneau (SOE/HHP), Matt Hokom (L&L), Bob Mild (Academic Affairs), Amanda Metcalf (SOE/HHP), Jim Weekley (BCG), Connor Haberland (SGA), Brian Wright (SoFA — proxy for Daniel Eichenbaum), Janie Leary (SOE/HHP — proxy for Jessica Alsup)

Guests: Maria Rose, Chris Lavorata, Tim Oxley, Kay Widney, Jack Kirby, Sharon Boni, Debra Hoag, Steven Roof

- I. Faculty Senate President Charles Shields called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.
- II. The minutes of the February 2016 Faculty Senate meeting were approved without further revision.
- III. Information/Announcements/Discussion
 - A. President Rose
 1. The legislative session is due to end at midnight on Saturday. The budget continues to be a major issue. Senator Roman Prezioso informed President Rose that it is likely that the state will not have a budget until May. The vote continues to be gridlocked along party lines and the legislators have not figured out how to resolve the budget deficit.
 2. The University Terrace housing project is still on schedule. The floors have been laid and the roofs are going up on buildings one and two on schedule.
 3. After commencement, the new HVAC system will be installed in the Education Building. A new HVAC system will also be installed in Jaynes Hall, along with other renovations, which will require evacuation of the building during the summer. The sidewalk project outside of Hardway Hall is also moving forward.
 - B. Assessment Report from Dr. Oxley
 1. Since the February meeting, Erica Garrett has added program assessment rubrics to TaskStream under the General Information section. These rubrics are not cycle specific and should be easy to find for faculty review.
 2. Oxley hopes to continue to improve the process of assessment as well as communication regarding the process. The goal is to have multiple reviewers for each program beginning next year.
 3. Shane Jordan and Erica Garrett are working on integrating TaskStream with CAS (which allows people to log-on to TaskStream via myFairmontState) so that faculty do not have to access TaskStream via Blackboard unless they wish to.
 4. The NSSE surveys have started with a much higher response rate among seniors (48%) and first year students (42%) than last year.
 5. The FSSE survey on student engagement will begin on March 29. It is important to have a high response rate from faculty. Subsequent evaluations will come from the principle investigator of the survey. The survey is based at Indiana University and faculty will

receive a link to complete it via e-mail. Oxley believes that only full-time tenure-track faculty will be asked to participate.

C. ACF — Harry Baxter

1. The conceal carry bill was passed over Governor Tomlin's veto. There is no explicit exclusion for institutions of higher education in the bill; however, Bruce Walker of HEPC believes that higher education campuses can still be "gun free" by action of the BOG. Many Faculty Senates at other state institutions have passed resolutions calling for their campuses to remain "gun free" zones. Baxter encouraged the FSU Faculty Senate to take similar action as soon as possible.
 1. Discussion followed as to whether or not FSU's campus (and that of other colleges and universities) is considered private property or government property — both of which have the option of excluding guns.
 2. President Rose confirmed that it is existing FSU policy to prohibit firearms on campus.
2. PEIA is still set to face a major shortfall for the next fiscal year. The state Senate sought to pass a \$1 tax on tobacco in order to fund PEIA; however, the measure was defeated in the House. It is unlikely that the issue will be resolved prior to the close of the current sessions. Faculty are encouraged to "remember in November" as a means of taking action.

D. BOG — Budd Sapp

1. Sapp has circulated the construction update with the summary report on enrollment/retention, admissions/recruitment, financial aid/scholarship, etc.
2. Sapp reported that Joseph Kremer did very well presenting on faculty concerns and experiences at the last BOG meeting.
3. The BOG is continuing to take a hard look at budget issues and appreciates the good work happening on campus.
4. The executive committee will meet on April 4 with subcommittees meeting prior to that date. The next BOG meeting is scheduled for April 14. If faculty have questions or concerns they would like addressed, they should contact Sapp.

E. Student Government

1. The SGA representatives had no official report.
2. The newly elected SGA representatives will be introduced at the April Faculty Senate meeting.

IV. Unfinished Business

A. Major Business

1. Curriculum proposals 15-16-06, 15-16-07, and 15-17-08 were up for second reading. The Senate moved to consider the proposals as a group. The motion was seconded.
2. All three proposals passed for second reading without further discussion.

B. Senate by-law Revisions — Continuing Discussion

- A. Senate President Shields requested comments for proposed revisions to the bylaws. He asked that the Senate consider questions such as: How to define faculty for purposes of voting? How are new committees to be populated? How to ensure that non-elected committees include a range of representatives from across campus

- B. Shields had received a message from Rick Harvey asking for clarification of the definition of “faculty” in the by-laws. As in the past, there continues to be confusion as to whether or not Deans and Chairs are excluded from voting on faculty issues per the current terminology of the by-laws.
1. Discussion followed as to whether or not changing the definition would eliminate the need for Academic Affairs as well as the benefits and pitfalls of allowing Deans and Chairs to be seen as faculty. Several members of the Senate commented on the fact that administrators often have different concerns than do faculty and that perhaps a clear demarcation is necessary in order for faculty to have their own distinct voice on campus.
 2. According to Harry Baxter, there is no consistency on this issue state-wide — some colleges/universities treat chairs as full faculty whereas others consider them to be administrators.
 3. Members of the Senate felt that while excluding Deans and Chairs may eliminate people who have good intentions for faculty and in a position to help, that the benefits of exclusion outweigh those of their inclusion when it comes to voting on issues of faculty interest.
 4. The Senate ultimately determined that the existing language — which disqualifies faculty from voting if more than half of their duties are administrative — is clear enough.
 5. Bob Mild of Academic Affairs and Sharon Boni (who was present as a guest) were the only two people in attendance who would be directly affected by this issue. Both reported that they already feel that they have sufficient input on faculty concerns by way of their representatives on the Faculty Senate.
- C. The Senate also discussed how the two newly formed standing committees of the Senate — the Common Book Committee and the Technology Committee — were to be populated. The consensus was that these should be general interest committees. The by-laws will be amended to reflect this.
- D. The Senate also discussed the issue of how to ensure that all units are being adequately represented on non-elected committees. Chris Kast, chair of the Committee on Committees, asked if the by-laws should include a statement regarding limitations on how many people from each unit can serve on any given committee in order to better ensure balance.
1. In the following discussion, senators suggested that at least five schools should be represented on each committee. They also expressed concern that it is often the same individuals serving on multiple committees and that greater participation across the board would be beneficial.
 2. Discussion of participation on non-elected committees precipitated discussion regarding how committees dependent on elected representation should proceed when certain units refuse to provide a representative. For some committees, such as the Curriculum Committee, lack of representation from all units has hindered the work of the committee when a quorum is not present.
 3. The Senate also discussed whether or not it was necessary to form an Ad Hoc committee in order to establish clear parameters for these issues. There was general consensus that this could be beneficial; however, it is unlikely that the by-laws can be amended in time for this year. The Committee on Committees will have to proceed with the survey without decisive action and will use their best discretion in determining committee membership.

4. The Executive Committee will provide a draft of parameters for committee membership at the April Faculty Senate meeting.
- E. Shields had also circulated a draft of a proposed revision to the by-laws that clarifies the proper procedure for when the Senate President cannot complete his or her duties. He asks that the Senate review the draft so that it can be voted on at the next meeting.

V. New Business

A. Major Business — Curriculum Proposals

1. Curriculum Proposals 15-16-05, 15-16-09, 15-16-11, 15-16-12, and 15-16-13 were all up for first reading.
2. The proposals for the nursing program (15-16-11 and 15-16-13) were in need of immediate implementation. Proposal 15-16-11 revitalizes the previously taught course on Death and Dying in order to bring it up-to-date. The course is an elective, rather than a requirement. Proposal 15-16-13 creates two courses by way of a Rural Health grant. The new courses will be exploratory courses for high school seniors to pursue dual enrollment, for undeclared majors, and for first year students hoping to get a better sense of what kind of healthcare professions they can pursue by way of degree-programs at FSU. The grant is designed to bring more healthcare professionals to rural West Virginia.
 - a. Members of the Senate asked if we will need to hire new faculty in order to teach the grant-driven courses. The grant will cover the costs at first; however, after that enrollment will determine demand. By cross-listing the courses across three disciplines they hope to dispel the need for new hires at this time. The goal is that it will be self-sustaining, but it may raise staffing questions later on.
 - b. The Senate moved to bring 15-16-11 and 15-16-13 to the floor for first reading and both proposals passed.
 - c. Veronica Gallo requested that the waiting period for second reading be waived given the time-sensitive nature of implementing the new courses. The Senate moved to do so and both proposals were accepted for second reading without further discussion.
- B. Janie Leary was in attendance to speak for 15-16-09, which creates a separate research course in Community Health. To date, students in this program have had to take the research course in Exercise Science; however, that course is less relevant for Community Health students and there are now enough Community Health students to warrant their own course. The program will continue to accept the Exercise Science research course if that is what students have, or can, take in the future.
 1. Proposal 15-16-09 was accepted for first reading. A request was made to waive the waiting period and a motion was made to do so. The proposal passed for second reading without further discussion.
- C. No one was in attendance to discuss 15-16-05 and 15-16-12, both of which affect the Architecture program. The Senate moved to pass them for first reading. Both proposals passed for first reading without further discussion.

VI. Open Forum

- A. During Open Forum, the Senate continued to discuss the issue of how to contend with units that do not provide representatives for elected committees, especially when those elected committees have trouble functioning without a quorum.

1. Members of the Curriculum Committee shared that they had had to render some schools “inactive” in order to meet quorum in a specific situation where a regular member was on sabbatical and no temporary replacement was provided by the unit in question. Senators seemed to think that this was a good, albeit temporary, solution to the problem and that the issue deserved more attention.
 - a. Jack Kirby took care to stress that despite this particular situation, it has been his experience that members of the Curriculum and General Studies Committees are dedicated and hard working and that the situation described above seems to be the exception rather than the rule.
 2. Members of the Senate discussed whether or not units failing to provide representation could or should be able to benefit from the work of the committee. Other topics included whether or not Deans or Chairs should appoint representatives in the event that no one was willing to serve (though doing so would not guarantee participation); how to have more diversity, rather than de facto “unit spokespeople” serving on every important committee; and, whether the bylaws required revision on this front as well.
 3. While there were no immediate solutions to the problem at hand, many members of the Senate did feel that this problem is habitual enough to warrant further discussion.
 4. Shields asked that Senators forward along further comments to him as well as suggested changes for revising the by-laws regarding this matter.
- B. Shields reminded the Senate that his two-year term as Senate President will expire at the end of this academic year. People should begin to think of nominees to fill the position next year. In April, the Executive Committee will appoint a Nominating Committee to determine candidates for leadership positions on the Faculty Senate.

VII. Shields adjourned the meeting at 4:26 p.m.