

**Faculty Senate
Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2015
UC 221**

Senators/Reps in attendance:

Aparna Palmer, Johnny Snyder, Elizabeth Sharp, Genell Stites, Lisa Friel, Dan Schultz-Ela, Chad Middleton, Jack Delmore, Jeanine Howe (for Megan Glynn), TJ Gerlach, Sarah Swedberg, Laney Wooster, Anne Bledsoe

Senators/Reps absent:

Josh Butler, Megan Glynn, Gayla Jo Slauson, James Ayers, Connor Boe, Melinda J. Scott

Guests in attendance:

Steve Werman (Academic Affairs), Shawn Robinson (Computer Science, Mathematics & Statistics; Assessment Committee)

Minutes Secretary: Coreen Blair (for Melinda J. Scott)

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL BY SIGN-IN

The meeting was called to order by Aparna Palmer, Faculty Senate President, at 3:34 PM in UC221.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: to accept all items on the Consent Agenda (Swedberg/Delmore); motion carried.

- A. Sabbatical Leave Committee minutes from October 19, 2014 meeting.
- B. Graduate Curriculum minutes from February 25, 2015 meeting.
- C. Distinguished Faculty & Emeritus Committee minutes from March 5, 2015 meeting.

III. APPROVE SENATE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (3/5/15)

Motion: to approve minutes from February 19, 2015 as amended to strike “denial of tenure” from Item VI.E.

(Middleton/Sharp); motion carried.

IV. STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES TO APPROVE

- A. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Minutes (2.26.15)

Motion: to approve the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee minutes of February 26, 2015.

(Stites/Friel); motion carried unanimously.

- A. Assessment Committee Minutes (5.8.14)
- B. Assessment Committee Minutes (9.3.14)
- C. Assessment Committee Minutes (10.3.14)
- D. Assessment Committee Minutes (10.22.14)
- E. Assessment Committee Minutes (11.14.14)

Motion: to approve Assessment Committee Minutes of May 8, 2014, then amended to approve all five Assessment Committee Minutes from May 8 to November 14, 2014. (Schultz-Ela/Stites); motion carried unanimously.

Discussion: In response to a question about proceedings during the 10.3.14 meeting, Shawn Robinson shared that the Assessment Committee split into subgroups in the 10.3.14 and 10.22.14 meetings to conduct trials of the VALUES rubrics for Essential Learning outcomes. Robinson also confirmed that Paul Behl is the WCCC representative.

V. CONTINUING BUSINESS

- A. Collection of Department Head Comments on Evaluations (Johnny)
[Handout “Responses to Department Head Query”]

Discussion: Snyder summarized responses on this issue with comment that “4 out of 5” responses were positive. Aparna Palmer suggested waiting for further responses before proposing changes to Handbook Committee for approval in Fall 2015 leading to implementation in Fall 2016.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. CMU Hosting/Sponsoring Speakers (TJ Gerlach)

Discussion: Gerlach raised a colleague’s concerns with the issue of possible “propaganda” and the potential need to have an approval process in place for verification of legitimate agenda and relevance of topic for speakers at functions associated with the CMU name, even if no money is involved. The issue apparently has not been raised before in Faculty Senate. Further discussion concerned reasons for disbanding the previous Lectures and Forums series and whether it might be revived. It was recommended that Johnny Snyder bring in the VP for External Affairs to address the Senate on the current approval process and raise the possible revival of the Lectures and Forums series in Executive Committee.

- B. 0.8 Instructors and Standing Committees (Aparna Palmer)
[Handout “Proposal from Department Heads”]

Discussion: Palmer summarized a proposal from department heads to consider a bylaw change to allow 0.8 instructors serve on Faculty Senate standing committees. Three specific requirements are proposed to ensure eligibility and representation of 0.8 instructors on committees. Snyder noted that representatives from individual departments are only required on four committees. Questions arose about instructors being pressured to do more without compensation. Service on Faculty Senate could be a special case. The proposal might be only a temporary solution that does not address the real root of the problem. Aparna Palmer recommended senators discuss this issue further with the full-time instructors and make clear the source of the proposal.

VII. REPORTS AND UPDATES

- A. Update from Academic Affairs (Steve Werman)
No new updates to report.

- B. Update on VPAA Search (Chad Middleton)
The VPAA search has forwarded a document to President Foster identifying strengths and weakness of candidates, without ranking. Snyder asked if comments of candidates would be made public for review. Middleton will look into that possibility.

- C. Executive Committee Report (Dan Schultz-Ela)
Instructor representation on Faculty Senate committees was discussed with President Foster. The President asked the faculty members present for feedback on the VPAA candidates.

VIII. ADJOURN

Motion: to adjourn the Faculty Senate meeting of March 19, 2015 (Stites)

Meeting adjourned at 4:54pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Coreen Blair
(for Melinda Scott)
Minutes Secretary