

Faculty Senate
Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2016
UC 221

Senators/Reps in attendance:

Chad Middleton, Josh Butler, Dan Schultz-Ela, Jack Delmore, Lisa Friel, TJ Gerlach, Megan Glynn, Carrie McVean Waring, Elizabeth Sharp, Sarah Swedberg, Laney Wooster, Aparna Palmer, James Ayers, Anne Bledsoe, Ben Linzey

Guests in attendance:

Kurt Haas, Assist. VP of Academic Affairs; Kimberly Williams, Executive Director of CMU Marketing; Scott Kessler, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Vice-Chair, Don Carpenter, Graduate Curriculum Committee Chair

Minutes Recorder: Melinda J. Scott

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

Meeting was called to order by President Chad Middleton at 3:30pm.
Senators and guests were reminded to sign the Roll Call sheet on the clipboard.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. UCC Minutes (12.10.15)

**Motion: to accept Consent Agenda as listed above.
(McVean Waring/seconded); motion carried unanimously.**

III. STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES TO APPROVE

A. Sabbatical Leave Committee Minutes (11.12.15)

Discussion: Curiosity was expressed regarding each candidate receiving a letter that details their ranking in relationship to the other candidates. It was suggested that this information (along with particulars provided about the strengths and weaknesses of the application) is valuable to the candidate, should she or he apply for sabbatical leave at another time.

**Motion: to approve the Sabbatical Leave Committee Minutes of November 12, 2015.
(Swedberg/seconded); motion carried unanimously.**

B. UCC Minutes (11.12.15)

Discussion: Scott Kessler, Vice-Chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee was present for questions regarding the minutes. There was no discussion.

Motion: to approve the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Minutes of November 12, 2015.

(Ayers/seconded); motion carried unanimously.

C. GCC Committee Minutes (11.11.15)

Discussion: Don Carpenter, Chair of the Graduate Curriculum Committee was present for questions regarding the minutes. There was a question regarding the suggestion of "smaller class sizes." This was a stray comment received by a member of the GCC, and Chairman Carpenter stressed that issues of this type are really the purview of the Graduate Studies Advisory Committee.

**Motion: to approve the Graduate Curriculum Committee Minutes of November 11, 2015.
(Butler/seconded); motion carried unanimously.**

IV. APPROVE SENATE MINUTES FROM 12.3.15

Discussion:

- Item VI.A. – Correct the first motion to read: “Motion: to forward to the administration C. Middleton’s “Faculty Senate Recommendation on increased support for *Faculty Travel* and the *Faculty Professional Development Fund*.” and strike the following: “...with corrections to some of the data and a reformatting of the document.”
- Item VI.A. – Correct the discussion comment following the first motion, amending “.08 faculty” to “.8” faculty, so that the comment reads: “The document could be modified with separate lines for .8 faculty, tenured faculty, and tenure-track faculty.”
- Item VII.B. – Correct the typo in the motion by removing the word “amend, so the motion reads: “Motion: to extend the Faculty Senate meeting ten more minutes.”
- Item VII.C. – Change the description of the Strategic Planning update to read: “As well as providing the hand-out, Faculty Trustee Palmer also presented an SPC update to the senators.”
- Item VII.D. – Strike “Assistant” from the heading, so it reads “Update on the VPAA search, Chad Middleton”

Motion: to approve the Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes of December 3, 2015 with amendments as listed in the discussion above.

(Sharp/seconded); motion carried unanimously.

V. PRESENTATION

A. CMU Marketing, Kimberly Williams, Executive Director of Marketing

Ms. Williams gave a Power Point presentation detailing the marketing strategies for the current and upcoming college student population, “Generation Z.”

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion concerning Faculty Handbook changes, Chad Middleton

President Middleton reminded the senators that comments for the Handbook Revision Committee’s consideration are due tomorrow, 2.5.16. Within the handbook there are three main content items up for policy revision that bear careful attention: Faculty Absences, Academic Department Head Performance Evaluations and Faculty Performance Evaluations. Senator Swedberg expressed concerns from members of the Social and Behavior Sciences Department regarding the proposed changes to the assessment portion of the handbook, notably the addition of the section on “collegiality” as an evaluative measure. The wording within this section is questionable as it lacks “perceived objectivity”—an example being how one quantifies “altruism.” Of equal concern is what sort of documentation is required to merit a punitive response to “unacceptable collegial behavior,” as none is cited in the proposed changes to the handbook.

Motion: to table Item VI.A. momentarily in order to proceed with the remainder of the meeting agenda.

(Schulz-Ela/seconded); motion carried unanimously.

VII. REPORTS

A. Update from Academic Affairs; Kurt Haas, Assistant VPAA

Mr. Haas had no updates for the Faculty Senate.

B. Strategic Planning Committee update, Aparna Palmer

Faculty Trustee Palmer apprised the senators with the following update. The SPC met to review the plan. The plan was then presented to the CMU Board of Trustees at their January 28-29 meeting in Denver. A minor change was made to the document after objections were raised about the wording surrounding “diversity.” The SPC plan was then approved by the board.

C. Update on the VPAA Search, Chad Middleton

- Eight candidates were interviewed by the search committee
- The committee agreed on a short list of four candidates
- Open interviews with these four candidates will be conducted on campus the week of 2/8 on the following days: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
- The campus schedule and CVs for all four candidates will be available online

Motion: to return to tabled Item VI.A.

(Butler/seconded); motion carried unanimously.

Motion (as amended): to adopt as Faculty Senate the following statement, regarding Faculty Senate’s concern about the proposed changes to the Faculty Handbook, and forward it to the Handbook Revision Committee:

(Swedberg/seconded); motion carried unanimously.

Faculty Senate expresses concern about the Proposed Revision to the CMU Professional Personnel Employment Handbook regarding 4. Basic Employment and Professional Responsibilities. Faculty Senate believes that the new criteria could be used to downgrade performance evaluations for non-measurable criteria. The proposed change is too subjective in nature and proper documentation procedure has not been clearly established. Faculty Senate believes that this policy change is at odds with academic freedom.

VIII. ADJOURN

President Middleton respectfully proposed to adjourn the meeting if there were no objections. There were no objections.

Meeting adjourned at 4:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda J. Scott, Minutes Recorder