

MINUTES OF THE 2014-2015 FACULTY SENATE
September 9, 2014

ROLL CALL

Members present: Shaikh Ahmed, Philip Anton, George Boulukos, Joe Cheatwood, Terry Clark, Lucian Dervan, Bruce DeVantier, Mark Dolan, Ahmad Fakhoury, Anthony Fleege, Jordan Forbes, David Gilbert, Steven Goetz, Laura Halliday, Edward Heist, Eric Holzmueller, Holly Hurlburt, Andrea Imre, Carolyn Kingcade, Sajal Lahiri, James MacLean, Nancy Martin, John McSorley, James Phegley, John Reeve, Ruth Anne Rehfeldt, Benjamin Rodriguez, Stacey Sloboda, Rachel Stocking, Gray Whaley, Rachel Whaley, Lyle White, Mingqing Xiao

Members absent with Proxy: Randolph Burnside proxy for Judith Davie, Edward J. Helleny proxy for Howard Motyl

Members absent without Proxy: Sandy Fark

Visitors and guests: James Allen (Associate Provost for Academic Programs), Provost Susan Ford (ex-officio), Chancellor Paul Sarvela (ex-officio), President Randy Dunn

MINUTES

Minutes of the July 8, 2014 meeting were presented. Terry Clark made a motion to approve the minutes. Steven Goetz seconded. All in favor, minutes approved as presented.

GUEST: President Randy Dunn

President Dunn welcomed the Faculty Senate back to the start of a new school year and expressed his appreciation for being invited to address the Senate. Dunn thanked the Faculty for their patience with all of the changes that have and are taking place on campus. He spoke about the importance of values when it comes to decisions being made and direction to be taken. Dunn expressed the ongoing need for transparency, collaboration and accountability as part of these values. Dunn went on to say that as President and working with the Board, he is trying to impart some understanding that a University system has to stand for something, do something, and have value. He has asked the Board to figure three big areas where work can be done to provide meaning; to build efficiencies and streamline, to have dollars to invest back in to the campuses to keep programs strong and expand. Dunn announced that he will starting a biweekly column that will be shared with the faculty and staff within the system where he will share thoughts and provide updates. Dunn then asked for questions.

S. Sloboda asked about contract negotiations. She asked how and where President Dunn thinks that is going. Dunn responded by saying it is not for the President to be part of the bargaining process but will monitor and insure that if there is something that needs to be done at the system level to help move things along, it gets done. Dunn stated that he does not want the issue of the furlough days to interfere with the bargaining process. He went on to say that the furlough days issue is being reviewed by the full labor board. After each step of this process, the Board of Trustees is going to look, talk, and decide what the next step should be. Dunn stated that it is not his wish for the furlough days issue to be stretched out for a long time.

G. Boulukos asked President Dunn how Faculty members will know the bargaining process will be different. Dunn responded by saying that the most honest answer is time is what shows that. Boulukos added that it is obvious that positive changes have been made at the top and the bargaining appears to be moving slowly. Dunn responded by saying that he has met with the bargaining teams and discussed many things including the use of outside counsel and if that is appropriate. Dunn added that the bargaining is different this time because there is new administration and new orders.

R. Stocking added that one of the reasons it is taking a long time is because they are trying out interest based bargaining which is based on trust. Dunn suggested that the bargaining team exercise patience to

get the relationship building going because it will be beneficial when dealing with issues that are going to be on the table.

REPORTS/REMARKS

1. **James Maclean**

2a. **Chancellor Sarvela** started by thanking the Senator's for their service. He went on to speak about a) How the administration is very interested in getting input from the Senate regarding any areas that need improvement. An example of this is the research vehicle issue. Researchers no longer have to park the vehicles at the Law School and walk back to their offices. This was a time and safety concern for both faculty, staff, and students; b) Enrollment is up 25 students. A small victory but very meaningful; c) Transfer students are up 2.3%; d) International students are at the best level since 1985; e) There are close to a dozen different retention programs. One that is looking to be successful is the Mathematics program; f) Research efforts are at a flat amount in grant activity compared to last year at \$61 million, but the federal activity increased by \$5 million; g) Operational effectiveness is being looked at closely. For example, it is the goal of the Student Services Task Force to have all of student services under one umbrella. This will make it better for communication and collaboration; h) The budget is essentially flat. The goal is to primarily take cuts from the administration so that it will limit the impact on the academic departments.

2b. **Provost Ford** stated the budget is down overall because of the loss of tuition revenue due to prior tuition waiver commitments. Ford went on to say that she is looking at cuts particularly in areas like the Marketing budget. Data from past years are being evaluated to see which techniques worked best and which ones should not be used. Continued work on the recruitment of new students and retaining them will help us not to have the same budget short-fall next year. Ford commented that the search for the Graduate Dean is moving forward. There is also a search for the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Business. Jason Green is serving as Interim Dean of Business and Jane Swanson is serving as Dean of COLA. Jim Garvey is serving as Interim Dean of the Graduate School. There are other positions on campus that are in need of filling. Various people are filling those positions temporarily. Tamora Workman has agreed to work temporarily as Registrar as well as her permanent position as head of Transfer Student Services. Harold Bardo is serving as Interim Director of Undergraduate Admissions. Jim Carl is serving as Interim Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions. Ford closed by saying that she believes in a longstanding commitment to shared governance. She also commented that she believes that the heartbeat and continuity of any institution is its faculty.

G. Boulukos commented about budget transparency and asked Provost Ford what are the methods and process of keeping the faculty in the loop when decisions were being made. Ford responded by saying the difficulty is the short time frame in which the budget decisions have to be made. Working on better communication and transparency during the process is something she is trying to do. Not the individual decisions that have to be made in any given fiscal year, but the thinking that is behind setting up those procedures.

Chancellor Sarvela added that the most important thing to him in any budget model is fairness. The budget committee and Deans have been asked to think about fairness.

Provost Ford commented that last year's budget model cannot be undone. Ford continued by saying that she is working with the Deans to come up with a very neutral model while they develop a policy and process for the future that will have more voices.

H. Hurlburt expressed her appreciation for the spirit of the new administration's understanding of shared governance.

Provost Ford responded by giving two examples of how, in the short time she has been in her position, she has used shared governance to change policies. One being the change that occurred with the final exam week schedule and two, the cancellation of classes due to low enrollment.

A. Imre asked Provost Ford if she knew what the budget redistribution was going to be.

Provost Ford responded by saying that she is starting by looking at areas that do not have to be passed on to academic areas and then looking at the areas that the academic areas are going to have to address.

A. Imre then asked if Provost Ford had a sense of what cuts the Colleges could tolerate and if the Colleges who had major budget cuts last fiscal year were able to tolerate it.

Provost Ford replied by saying that those Colleges did tolerate the budget cuts because the fiscal year ended and because it is a State budget, it has to balance.

E. Heist commented about the Graduate Dean and vice Chancellor of Research being kept separate positions and asked if there is a time-line for a permanent Vice Chancellor for Research search.

Chancellor Sarvela responded by saying that Jim Garvey will stay in the Vice Chancellor position until a permanent Chancellor is designated.

S. Ahmed asked about steps to boost research infrastructure or outcomes.

Chancellor Sarvela responded by saying that 9% of the over-head is going to Jim Garvey and 2% is going to the Medical School. He went on to say that they are trying to hire the 30 plus new faculty this year and 40 plus new faculty for next year. Attracting a good core group of grant writing faculty will also boost the infrastructure.

A. Imre asked if it is still policy that 90% of any open faculty position falls in to the faculty line and 10% goes back to the Provost's office.

Provost Ford replied by saying yes, it is still the policy. The 10% is a central pool to allow some growth.

G. Boulukos commented on the discussion from last year regarding the College of Education and Human Services reorganization plan and the feedback that was provided from that discussion.

Provost Ford replied by saying that she has spoken with the Dean and he will be communicating with the Faculty over the next week. She added that any decisions either to rescind, continue, start over would need to come from the Faculty in the College.

G. Boulukos added that was the recommendation of the Faculty Senate so that is good to hear.

3. **Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE – No Report**

4. **Graduate Council** – Randy Burnside reported that the Council will be reconsidering the Tuition on Grants policy. The Council will also be considering an increase in graduate applications.

Provost Ford added that there is almost no funds for domestic recruiting of graduate students. The purpose of the request for a modest increase of the fee is to generate funds that would be used centrally for domestic recruiting.

J. MacLean commented on the Tuition on Grants Policy by saying it is his understanding that Dr. Garvey is moving forward with a progressive model. The progressive model that came from the Tuition on Grants Committee had several variables that needed to be flushed out before it could be implemented. If the policy is implemented without those variable being flushed out, there will be the same problems as there were with the previous Tuition on Grants Policy. MacLean stated that he would like to say on record that more discussion has to happen. If rescission is not on the table, please consult the people who have actually done the research on the policy and have a discussion about it.

R. Burnside replied by saying that discussion is ongoing.

Provost Ford added that it is her understanding that Dr. Garvey is either not applying the policy yet or is applying it in very, very conservative and limited form until the Graduate Council and Research Committee had fully vetted the policy.

R. Burnside agreed and confirmed.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Sajal Lahiri

The Executive Council met last week on September 2nd. Both the Chancellor and Provost addressed the Council.

BUDGET COMMITTEE – Andrea Imre

The Chancellor's Planning and Budget Committee has only met one time since March. The decision was made by the Chancellor and Provost's office to merge the Chancellor's Executive Committee and Budget Advisory Committee in to one committee. It is now the Executive Planning and Budget Committee.

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES – Terry Clark

H. Hurlburt reported for the committee. The committee will be talking about JRB elections soon. The Recreational Sports and Services Committee and the Chancellor's Advisory Review Committee need representatives from the Faculty. Kevin Smith from the Department of Chemistry is interested in taking the position on the UEPC.

J. MacLean asked for all those in favor of appointing Kevin Smith to the UEPC. Unanimous approval. Kevin Smith appointed to the UEPC.

FACULTY STATUS AND WELFARE COMMITTEE - Holly Hurlburt / Anthony Fleege

No Report

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – Gray Whaley

No Report

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION POLCY COMMITTEE – Bruce DeVantier / Rachel Whaley

B. DeVantier reported that the committee vetted the names submitted for Program Review and asked for Senate approval of these names. ([Attachment A](#))

J. MacLean asked for all those in favor of approval of the names submitted for Program Review. Unanimous approval.

J. Allen thanked the Senate for the approval and stressed the importance of the integrity of the Program Reviewers. He said to please notify Jim MacLean, Bruce DeVantier, Rachel Whaley, or him if there are any actions of conflict of interest.

R. Whaley supplied the Senate with copies of the Final Exam Resolution. ([Attachment B](#))

J. MacLean asked for a vote to approve the reading of the Final Exam Resolution. All in favor. Resolution read.

R. Whaley read the resolution.

J. MacLean asked for all those in favor of the Final Exam Resolution. Unanimous approval.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Fall Faculty Luncheon scheduled for October 16th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned AT 3:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Philip Anton, Secretary
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