

MINUTES OF THE 2015-2016 FACULTY SENATE
July 14, 2015

ROLL CALL

Members present: Philip Anton, Jason Bond, Deborah Burris, Joe Cheatwood, Jon Davey, Judith Davie, Mike Eichholz, Sandy Fark, Jordan Forbes, David Gilbert, Tobin Grant, Laura Halliday, Andrea Imre, Bobbi Knapp, Sajal Lahiri, James MacLean, Howard Motyl, Ryan Netzley, John Reeve, Ruth Anne Rehfeldt, Benjamin Rodriguez, Saikat Talapatra, Melissa Viernow

Members absent with Proxy: Qiang (Shawn) Cheng (proxy Jane Geisler-Lee), Lucian Dervan (proxy Bill Drennan), Robert Spahr (proxy Michele Leigh), Gray Whaley (proxy Joseph Sramek)

Members absent without Proxy: Shaikh Ahmed, Terry Clark, Sandra Collins, Ahmad Fakhoury, James Mathias, John McSorley, Stacey Sloboda, Rachel Stocking, Shelley Tischkau, Wendi Zea

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

MINUTES

Minutes of the May 12, 2015 meeting were presented for approval. R. Netzley moved to approve the minutes as presented. J. MacLean seconded. Minutes unanimously approved as presented by voice vote.

REPORTS/REMARKS

1. **Andrea Imre** started by commenting on concerns regarding the selection of graduation speakers that were voiced in a letter to President Dunn. ([Attachment A](#)) The letter had been circulated with the agenda for this meeting. Imre noted that the Faculty Senate Committee on Committees appoints two faculty members to the Commencement Committee and opened the floor for discussion.

P. Anton added that during the Faculty Senate Executive Council meeting, it was noted that the Commencement Committee does not take part in the selection of a commencement speaker; it is more involved with the details of the ceremony itself.

H. Motyl added that it was the understanding of the Faculty Senate Executive Council that commencement speakers are chosen by the Board of Trustees.

President Dunn stated that he responded to Holly Hurlburt and thanked her and the signees of the letter regarding the sentiment that was expressed in the letter. Dunn added that it is generally up to the Board of Trustees to make the selections of commencement speakers and stated that he felt that it would be appropriate to have faculty weigh in with suggestions as how to inform the Board on this type of thing.

Discussion continued raising questions and concerns including freedom of speech, why does the Board have a say at all, and why have a speaker. Dunn suggested that perhaps there could be a recommendation for policy language saying that there should be some type of review process for choosing commencement speakers that involves faculty.

A. Imre stated that the Faculty Senate Executive Council would continue discussing the issue. Imre concluded her remarks by announcing the upcoming Fall Faculty Luncheon which will be scheduled in October and the Faculty Senate group picture will be taken at the September 8, 2015 meeting.

- 2a. **President Dunn** commented on the current budget situation and stated that he would not reiterate what is already available on various media outlets. Dunn continued by saying that staff members are going through more than 50 state grants and contracts line by line to make sure there is money to keep people affected by those grants and contracts employed. Dunn added that it appears as though there is money available to keep the entire campus running for some time. Dunn concluded by saying that SIU can absorb a budget cut of 8.6%, but a cut of more than 10% would obviously have more impact and cuts would have to be made.
- 2b. **Provost Ford** started by saying that the focus of this fiscal year's strategy is to not focus on the total number of students enrolled and to focus on tuition revenue gained at the end. Ford reviewed the searches that will be coming up in the fall; Dean searches for College of Business, College of Education and Human Services, and Library Affairs, and Assistant Provost for Enrollment Management and Retention.
3. **Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE**
No Report
4. **Graduate Council**
No Report

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Howard Motyl

H. Motyl reported that the Executive Council briefly discussed an issue that was brought to the attention of the Senate in regards to the use of plus/minus grading. This topic will be discussed in more detail in the fall.

BUDGET COMMITTEE – Joe Cheatwood

J. Cheatwood commented that much of his report was already given by the President and Provost and added that everything that has already been said at this meeting is the same information that has been in every other meeting he has attended. Cheatwood pointed out that it is apparent that the process of communicating budget information has been very transparent and has nothing to add to what has already been shared by administration and the media.

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES – Phil Anton / Jordan Forbes

P. Anton presented the FY16 University Committee Appointments for approval ([Attachment B](#)) and made a motion for the approval of University Committee Appointments, seconded by R. Netzley. Unanimously approved by show of hands.

FACULTY STATUS AND WELFARE COMMITTEE – Ahmad Fakhoury

No Report

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – Deborah Burris / Sajal Lahiri

No Report

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION POLCY COMMITTEE – Ruth Anne Rehfeldt / Stacey Sloboda

R. A. Rehfeldt presented the Resolution to Approve the 2015-2016 Internal and External Program Reviewers ([Attachment C](#)). T. Grant raised two concerns with one of the people chosen on the list of reviewers; Benjamin Brinker for Internal Reviewer of the LLM Program. Grant pointed out that Brinker is fresh out of Graduate School, the time demands of a program reviewer could have a negative impact on a young Assistant Professor. Grant also pointed out that being a non-tenured program reviewer could affect his future promotion to tenure. A motion was made by R. Netzley to approve the 2015-2016 Internal and External Program Reviewers with a friendly amendment removing the name of Benjamin Brinker as Internal Reviewer of the LLM Program. Seconded by J. Forbes. Unanimously approved by show of hands.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,
Howard Motyl, Secretary
HM:ao