

2023-2024 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 9, 2024
Morris Library, Room 752/754 or Teams Option
1:00 – 3:00 P.M.

I. Call to Order

The March meeting was called to order by President Bethany Rader.

II. Roll Call: Michael Hylin

Members: Bethany Rader, Amber Pond, Cherie Watson, Christopher Wienke, Daniel Bronke, Diana Sarko, Geoffrey Young, Ghassan Ishak, Jeffrey Punske, Jennifer Walker, Lichang Wang, Lingguo Bu, Louis Premkumar, Michael Hylin, Nwamaka Anaza, Rachel Whaley, Randall Auxier, Sarah Lewison, Scott Gilbert, Seung-Hee Lee, Stacey McKinney, Ying Chen, Yueh-Ting Lee

Members Absent with Proxy: Lorelei Ritchie (Proxy Dale Aschemann)

Members Absent: Arash Komae, Elaine Jurkowski, Gary Apgar, Khalid Meksem, Marissa Ellerman, Mehdi Ashayeri Jahan Khanemloo, Seyed Yaser Samadi, Walter Ray

Guests: Austin Lane, Sheryl Tucker, Nick Wortman, Costas Tsatsoulis, Julie Dunston, Scott Collins, Rachel Frazier, Benjamin Bricker, Pinckney Benedict, Joddy Murray, Tobias Merriman, Kymberli Morgan, Julie Lindsey, Melissa Laake

III. Approval of Minutes from March 19, 2024

Motion: A. Pond

Second: M. Hylin

A vote commenced: 18 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Abstention; The minutes from 03/19/2024 were approved as presented.

IV. Remarks

A. President's Comments: Bethany Rader

B. Rader gave a Senate report at Grad. Council. They had a resolution for emeritus status. Concerns mentioned include whether or not faculty that already had an emeritus status would be grandfathered in if we added procedures for applying for emeritus status. Second concern was whether or not there would be a distinction for emeritus graduate faculty or if emeritus faculty was an umbrella term. Faculty Senate passed our resolution and that was the faculty recommendation for emeritus status. B. Rader will work with Grad. Council to help put forth a policy that is more comprehensive.

Reminder: Senate meeting April 30, 2024. Second half of meeting will be the Senate for 2024-2025.

V. Q and A Session with Chancellor and Provost

A. Chancellor Austin Lane Report

Chancellor Lane shared on the screen a draft of a memo that he'll be sending out campus wide regarding the retention rate from fall to spring. Spring retention goal is 90%. Fall-to-fall retention goal is 80%. Four-year graduation rate has been set as our overall goal (university goal) at 55% and six-year graduation goal at 61%. Tomorrow, we have our first Senate hearing. Chancellor Lane will be in Springfield meeting with a panel of state reps. and senators to discuss the university (retention, recruitment, and

enrollment). The House hearing will be April 18, 2024. As mentioned before, the governor's proposed budget is \$30 million for higher education, including \$24 million for universities in the state. The proposal at the table would net us about \$1.7 million for our state appropriation. Increase for the Map Grant and AIM High is on the table as well. Chancellor Lane asked AVC of HR Nick Wortman to provide an update on the equity study. Nick stated that with the help of the steering committee, the vendor, CBiz, was selected. The contract is ready for signature. Nick and Chancellor Lane will meet with CBiz to set ground rules and make expectations clear (equity study will start with faculty). The steering committee will be an advisory committee as we look not only at the equity study but with related policies and procedures around compensation for both faculty and staff moving forward. The equity study project will take 8-12 months.

B. Provost Sheryl Tucker Report

Provost Tucker met with a group from COLA to discuss the work they have done regarding University 101. She is excited about an integrated model that they're bringing forward and the work the faculty committee did to have a more integrated process for University 101 that will support student success. COLA will be moving forward with their full program this fall and we're excited to support that.

Craig Engstrom worked with an advisory group of faculty and staff to look over at the last few years the number of non-academic announcements in D2L. The challenge for students was to decide what was important. Announcements in the future will be academic only. Similar work will be done on surveys, because we have exit surveys that need a reasonable amount of student responses. Some programs have accreditation that have exit survey needs.

The other project is working with Will Clark, our CIO, about software. We will look at what we are supporting and what we can do with our money. An inventory will be done of what software is being used across campus. See if there are individual licenses we have that could be campus wide licenses and help people save money. We are looking at whether we should have two platforms (Slate & EAB Navigate) or if we can have a single platform for faculty, staff, and students. Slate does not talk effectively to Banner which is a SIU implementation issue, not a Slate/Banner issue.

VI. Reports

A. Executive Committee: Chair, Bethany Rader

a. Resolution to Recommend Approval of the RME for Center for Virtual Expression-Temporary Status

This RME came through UEPC. It's not a resolution specifically for a degree granting program, so it was decided that this should come from the Senate as a whole versus through UEPC. Resolution was read by B. Rader.

Benjamin Bricker addressed CVEx planning process and who participated. He addressed why the center is temporary. It's necessary as a starting point for a period of time until the viability of the center becomes known, and then it can become a more permanent center. It's a requirement.

VCR Costas Tsatoulis stated that if a center is to be recognized by IBHE, it starts as a temporary center. There's an internal process where the center needs to be evaluated after three years of its existence and then decide if it needs to continue. All centers are established as temporary until they go through the first run of evaluations.

Dean Joddy Murray clarified that he worked within his limited purview with willing faculty who were interested in the subject matter and getting ahead of the curve. He has welcomed CAM to develop its own center if they would like. If the Chancellor sees a couple of these centers maybe then there'll be a larger university wide initiative, but we have to work within the boundaries that we exist in. The center will be housed in COLA and will report to the COLA Dean. Anyone can use the center.

Motion: B. Rader

Second: J. Punske

A vote commenced: 20 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions; The RME for CVEx was approved as presented.

B. Election Committee: Bethany Rader

a. JRB candidate approval

(Expect a survey monkey for voting on Senate nominees.)

A call went out for the JRB nominees. Criteria for JRB include being full professor, can't be involved in a grievance or have been an administrator in the past three years. Due to lack of response, two calls went out. Of the eight candidates, three were eligible, but two were willing to be on the JRB. The JRB candidates are **Mary Taylor** and **Taeho Yoh** (their info. can be found in the Teams folder). There will still be three open seats, but the next election will be in Dec.

Motion: B. Rader

Second: YT. Lee

A vote commenced: 20 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions; The JRB candidates were approved as presented.

C. Undergraduate Education Policy Committee:

a. Resolution to Recommend Approval of the RME for the Addition of Material Sciences and Engineering Specialization within the BS in Mechanical Engineering

J. Punske stated this was passed by the unit by 11 yeas, 0 nays, 2 abstentions. UEPC voted on and recommended approval of this RME.

Motion: R. Auxier

Second: A. Pond

A vote commenced: 20 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions; The RME was approved as presented.

b. Resolution to Recommend the formation of an Ad-Hoc Committee on Addressing High DFW Rates

J. Punske stated Provost Tucker was invited to the UEPC meeting where she addressed her concerns with these courses. She wanted the committee to look at a variety of ways to improve the high DFW rates. J. Punske noted the core idea is to make sure faculty voices are being considered and reflected regarding recommendations and curricular changes. The recommendation is that this Ad-Hoc Committee report directly to the Senate and have a limited scope in its timeline. The goal is to have 10 seats with each unit represented. The concern is primarily with

the foundational courses and our core courses that have high DFW rates. The resolution as written allows the Committee on Committee broad discretion in how they choose to populate the committee, and the committee expires at the end of next semester. The committee would need to be renewed.

Motion: R. Auxier

Second: YT. Lee

A vote commenced: 19 Yeas, 1 Nays, 0 Abstentions; The Ad-Hoc Committee was approved as presented.

c. Resolution to Recommend the formation of an Ad-Hoc Committee on Instructor-Course Evaluations

J. Punske stated this committee will look at improving student response rates, making sure implementation and surveys are correct, ways to minimize and address bias within student evaluations, and how student evaluations are used or not used. Student evaluations are used in both the tenure promotion and reappointment process for NTTs. The Committee on Committees will populate this committee. R. Auxier stated Craig Engstrom should be consulted. J. Punske stated Craig Engstrom already spoke with the UEPC Committee.

Motion: J. Punske

Second: YT. Lee

A vote commenced: 18 Yeas, 1 Nays, 0 Abstentions; The Ad-Hoc Committee was approved as presented.

D. Budget committee: Rachel Whaley (no report today)

E. Committee on Committees: Co-Chairs, Amber Pond and Cherie Watson (no report)

F. Faculty Status and Welfare Committee: Yueh-Ting Lee and Jennifer Walker

April 24, 2024 is the Active Threat Exercise. YT. Lee thanked Co-Chair Jennifer Walker and committee members who worked on the Faculty Status Committee.

G. Governance Committee: Chris Wienke (no report)

Senate should expect an email from C. Wienke requesting feedback about what the Governance Committee should focus on or prioritize in the coming months.

H. Faculty Advisory council to IBHE: Lichang Wang (no report)

I. Graduate Council Representative: Scott Collins (met April 4, 2024)

We had a resolution to establish the Center for Virtual Expression for temporary status. It was passed. We had four other resolutions that were passed during this time. A resolution for the Graduate Council language describing transfer credits for a master's degree was modified. It's being limited to 9 credit hours with "B" or better. A resolution to recommend the RME to add a PhD in Mechanical Engineering was approved. A resolution for an RME to add an Out-of-Region Cooperative PhD in Historical Studies at SIUE was approved. The resolution for the RME to Eliminate Mining and Mineral Resource Engineering Concentration was approved.

J. VC of Research: Costas Tsatsoulis

Friday, we had the Grad. Fair. Thanks for those who participated. April 11, 2024 is the undergrad creative activities and research presentations/posters from students. Awards will be given at 3:30 p.m., Old Main Student Center. They will announce the top 10

presentations of the creative activities and research poster session, the REACH 2024-2025 winners, Faculty Foundation Award winners, and the Brent Bany Sigma Chi Awards. We will recognize the outstanding dissertation and the outstanding thesis in the Sciences and the Arts & Humanities Awards. We will recognize our three-minute thesis winner, the nominees to the Midwestern Association of Graduate School for the Teaching Awards (master & doctoral students), and the Willis Swartz Graduate School Scholarship Awardees.

There is an RME (Grad. Council approved resolution) for a blanket approach for approval of Accelerated 4+1 BS/MS/MA programs. Any program that would like to be a part of that can submit a memo to the Grad. School.

Lichang Wang stated that two graduating students (Chemistry & Biochemistry) received an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship. T. Tsatsoulis said that he would be happy to recognize them.

K. Ad Hoc Committee on Institutional Ranking/Educational Quality: Co-Chairs, Elaine Jurkowski and Yueh-Ting Lee

a. Approval of Final Report (~50 pages)

YT. Lee described the creation of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Institutional Ranking/Educational Quality. He thanked all members of the committee, especially the Faculty Senate members and undergraduate students for their three years of service on the committee. YT. Lee referenced the report that was distributed to the Faculty Senate. He asked for a vote and approval of report for the committee to be dissolved.

Motion: YT. Lee

Second: M. Hylin

A vote commenced: 19 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Abstention; The motion passes to dissolve the Ad-Hoc Committee.

VII. Old Business

R. Whaley stated that the Provost came a few months back to solicit thoughts on a possible new policy to require all international students to use SIU health insurance and not enable them to use the other health insurance. There were rationales raised by the Provost. The Graduate Student Union President and R. Whaley will have a meeting with the Provost on Friday to discuss the policy and the economic impact on international students.

VIII. New Business (none)

IX. Adjournment

A. Motion: C. Watson

B. Second: J. Punske