

Minutes
Faculty Senate Meeting
10:00 A.M. – 12:25 P.M.
Friday, September 29, 2017

Third World Collection Conference Room, Second Floor of Library

Attendance: Robert Bennett, Ian Brown, Paula Bryant, Catalina Casaru, Chadwick Gugg, Elizabeth Gurnack, Mark Laughlin, Jamie MacLennan, Yangil Park, Brian Parkinson, Laurel Robinson, Brian Smith, Rebecca Short, John Wilson

Ex Officio: Dr. Neal Weaver

1. Minutes from previous (April 21, 2017) meeting approved
2. John Wilson elected secretary of Faculty Senate Committee
3. Items from Academic Affairs
 - A. Approval of BS Biology curriculum change.
 - B. Approval of RN to BSN curriculum change.
4. President Dr. Neal Weaver
 - A. Dr. Weaver discussed his takeaways from the six small group meetings with faculty members. He enjoyed the conversations and noted one issue that kept coming up in a positive way was marketing and promoting the institution. Additional items arose to the top of the meetings, including: a clear definition of faculty expectations; travel reimbursement issues with faculty development grants; campus lockdown procedures (Dr. Weaver encourages each specific academic unit/building on campus to invite Public Safety to speak on specific lockdown procedures for that building. More will come as Chief Mike Tracy speaks about campus lockdown at the next cabinet meeting); pay increases (The Carl Vinson Institute is expected to begin salary studies in November); staffing issues; space and quality issues with Science labs; ADA compliance issues (Dr. Weaver said the Office of Disability Services was in place to help students who needed help with accessing materials and that faculty should direct any student who needed help to that office).
 - B. Dr. Weaver appreciated the faculty's participation with Dr. Tristan Denley and felt the event was a success. The recording of Dr. Denley's presentation during the faculty luncheon is currently being finalized and will be available to all faculty members in the near future.
5. Faculty Workloads
 - A. Dr. Elizabeth Gurnack reported on the Faculty Affairs Committee's charge to review and clarify faculty workloads. Discussed having each department draft its own workload policy.
 - B. Dr. Laurel Robinson brought forth a proposal from Graduate Affairs and Business and Finance Committees to update the faculty handbook language on workloads for faculty teaching both graduate and undergraduate courses. This was approved to be brought forth during the Fall General Faculty Meeting for approval.

6. Update on Chinese Bio-Modern International Conference
Dr. Laurel Robinson said the International Conference, hosted by GSW, would take place October 5-7, during fall break. Volunteers are being sought to help with the conference. Events will be held in the ACE building. Anyone interested in volunteering or obtaining more information should contact Dr. Keaton Wynn.
7. Discussion on Current State of Standing Faculty Committees
 - A. Discussion on current committee rotation and turnovers and whether to modify times for certain committees.
 - B. Discussion of disbanding and/or creating new faculty committees.
8. A proposed program to convert committee preference forms to an online system for collection and sorting was discussed. Approved to move forward to develop program with Simon Baev.
9. Meeting adjourned at 12:21 p.m.