

## Faculty Senate Meeting

1 December 2023

Senators present: Ashley Carter, Rob Dickes, Shannon Pritchard, Guoyuan Huang, Jiaying Liu, Kyle Mara, Amy Wilson (alt. for Jessica Mason), Erin Reynolds, Nicholas Rhew, Todd Schroer, Peter Whiting, Chad Tew

Additional attendees: Shelly Blunt, Jason Hardgrave, Amy Chan Hilton, Sally Vogl-Bauer

Held in BEC Boardroom

- Called to order: 2:31 pm
- Minutes from 11 November were circulated and, without corrections, approved.
- Senate Chair report from Kyle:
  1. Faculty need to be sure that we are accommodating student athletes when they miss course work due to athletic competitions.
  2. Spring Town Hall has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 27, 2024, from 2-3:30 pm in Forum 1.
    - a. Plant the seeds among your constituencies to come up with questions for President Rochon or the VPs.
  3. Those of you that provided topics for the spring meeting breakout sessions, please send a brief description to Megan Doyle so she can begin working on scheduling, room etc.
  4. All three of our guests for today's meeting, representing the entirety of the agenda items had to cancel their visits due to illnesses. They have been rescheduled for the first Senate meeting in the spring (Jan 12th).
- Provost's Report from Shelly:
  1. Jason Hardgrave has assembled a group to evaluate the academic calendar for duration and other considerations. Solarpalooza is being added to the academic calendar as a non-class day of redirected learning activities.
  2. Jason Hardgrave and Amy Chan Hilton are making progress with the Watermark implementation.
  3. The proposed change to HLC faculty qualifications guidelines was passed by HLC, which provides institutions with more flexibility in justifying faculty qualifications. USI will await state-level guidance before adjusting to the updated HLC guidelines.
  4. The testing center is now fully operational and open to faculty/students for make-up exams and exams for students requiring certain testing accommodations.
  5. The Spring Meeting is January 3<sup>rd</sup> and will include several professional development workshops, including a demonstration of Slate.



- Kyle Mara asked senators to be thinking about potential reforms to Faculty Senate, especially around term lengths
- Todd Schroer raised an issue concerning unnecessarily burdensome and slow administrative processes.
- Shelly Blunt reminded senators that CETL Symposium proposals are being accepted and that the Provost's Office has some funding available for speaker and other academic activities.
- Next meeting: January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Meeting adjourned with no additional business to consider: 3:47pm