

Faculty Senate meeting

27 August 2021

Senators in Attendance: Rex Strange, Brandon Field, Matt Hanka, Curt Gilstrap, Sima Fortsch, Stephanie Young, Chuck Conaway, Michael Strezewski, Jessica Mason, Marilyn Ostendorf, Mary Doerner, Kimberly Delaney, Xavia Harrington-Chate, Laura Bernhardt.

Other Attendees: Ron Rochon, Mohammed Khayum, Shelly Blunt, Amy Chan Hilton, Mina Heidarlou, Katherine Draughon, Kyle Mara, Oana Popescu-Sandu, Kathleen Elliot, Chrystal Steltenpohl, Guoyuan Huang, Michael Broshears, Brian McGuire, Cathy Carey, William Elliott, Alisa Holen, Les Nunn, Cindy Clayton; in addition a Shield reporter was logged in under the handle "Shield generic", but did not respond when asked to identify him/herself; it was suspected that the reporter was Shelby Clark, since she covered the Faculty Senate beat last year.

- Held via Zoom meeting. Called to order a little after 2 pm, once everyone got the correct link.
- Introductions and welcome of new faculty members.
- Welcome from Dr. Rochon.
- Provost Report:
 - We received a formal letter from HLC that all criteria were met. Maybe the HLC report should be made available to faculty on campus, because there is a wide-ranging documentation of all the things that are done on campus.
 - Recently authorized by the State Board of Education to be a Charter School Authorizer. (Ball State has authorized over 20 Charter Schools, but this is a new thing for us.) There are 5% of all students are in charter schools in our state. A lot of this discussion happened over the summer.
 - Enrollment update: we are several weeks before Census Day. We are about 12% below the target we set for our Freshman class. This is slightly higher than last year. Graduating students are on track, from a dip last year. Overall head count is lower than last year, and the credit hours generated are lower than last year. However, enrollment gives us no reasons to panic. It will not be disruptive to the degree that last year was.
 - Strategic Plan: Lots of institutions spend a lot of time formulating a strategic plan as a document, and the struggle is in implementing it. We learned from our last strategic plan, and we will be making periodic progress reports on the progress of the strategic plan. The first report was made over the summer, and Rex will distribute it.
 - Working on the Adult learner project, under a Lily Foundation grant.

- Working with other institutions on a Lily Endowment project to determine issues with student retention. One of our problems is that so many disparate software platforms make tracking student success difficult.
- Working on a proposal for Religion and Culture funding, related to our relationship with New Harmony.
- Looking to examine if we can increase the flexibility of our closing due to inclement weather policy.
- Need help with the Strategic Plan because a lot of the action steps require thought, and there need to be people thinking about them. He will be looking for as much help as possible from as many different places as possible.
- Chair's Report:
 - Has attended many meetings over summer; many of them related to the pandemic. Shelly headed the return-to-campus Task Force.
 - Shelly gave an update about our plan for asking students and employees to voluntarily submit proof-of-vaccination documentation. Looking into the details of how the collection and storage of those data be done. The data would be used in contact tracing, and are already being collected and used by Athletics to meet NCAA guidelines.
 - Rex asks us to go through the charges that we receive from our constituents, to make sure that the charges we receive are actionable and are reasonable. We may need to help them formulating the charges to be something that we can use. The most important item on the charge form is Item 3, the desired action. The most complaining on the charge form is found in Item 2.
- Election of Officers:
 - Brandon Field nominated as Secretary and elected with one vote against.
 - Vice Chair position was intended by the bylaws to be the Chair-elect. This has not been done frequently since the bylaws were changed that way, and might need to be changed at some time in the future.
 - Kim Delaney was nominated as Vice Chair/Chair-elect and elected unanimously.
 - Nominations will be requested from campus for the Honorary Degree Committee (must be a Full Professor).
 - University EDIC Committee needs one representative from Faculty Senate. Xavia Harrington was nominated and unanimously elected.
 - Faculty Senate representative needed for the CETL Advisory Board. Stephanie Young nominated and unanimously elected.
- Outstanding Committee Reports:
 - Economic Benefits Committee report has still not be submitted since last year.

- Core 39 Reports. The report was read and Rex will invite the Core 39 Director and the Director of Assessment to a future meeting to discuss. Motion was approved unanimously.
- FAA Committee Report
 - It was observed that the FAA Committee apparently ignored their standing charge, and the Chair of Faculty Senate will invite the Chair of the FAA subcommittee to discuss.
- It was observed that according to Robert's Rules that it is not necessary to "receive" a report; by having the report read in the agenda, the report was received by the body. The historic practice of the Senate for these reports is that when we "received" them in the past, we were actually "accepting" the report, by which the recommendations in the reports were accepted and endorsed by Senate.
- Approval of previous minutes from April:
 - Never done.
- Outstand Charges:
 - 2020_34: Priorities during Financial Exigency.
- Next meeting: 10 September, repeating every two weeks. Meeting times will be 2-4pm, with the expectation that things still on the table will be postponed
- Adjourned at 4:23 pm.

Minutes recorded by Brandon Field, secretary.