



## ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

**DATE:** January 21, 2021

**PRESENT:** Suzette Nynas  
Keith Edgerton  
Scott Butterfield  
Rachael Waller  
Heather Thompson-Bahm  
Sam Boerboom  
Robert Nava (ex-officio)  
Sue Balter-Reitz (ex-officio)  
Darlene Hert (ex-officio)

Jim Barron  
Jennifer Lynn  
Natalie Bohlmann  
John Pannell  
Vern Gagnon  
Austin Bennett  
Vicki Trier (ex-officio)  
Jana Marcette (ex-officio)

**ABSENT:** Naomi Norris (student)  
Tami Haaland (ex-officio)  
Susan Simmers (ex-officio)  
*\* excused*

Kurt Toenjes (ex-officio)  
Richard Beer (ex-officio)  
Kim Hayworth (ex-officio)

**GUESTS:** Mark Jacobson  
Cheri Johannes

Stefani Hicswa

**PRESIDING:** Jim Barron, Chair

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Jim Barron called the meeting to order at 3:42 p.m. in Library 148, with members and guests attending via Webex.

### I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Don Larsen, COB representative, has resigned from the Senate to become Department Chair. An election is in progress now.

### II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of December 3 were accepted as presented.

### III. PROVOST & CHANCELLOR REPORTS

Chancellor Hicswa said that today is her seventh day as Chancellor and so far it's been drinking from a fire hose. She thanked faculty who have already reached out to her, and noted faculty are welcome to email her questions any time. A laser focus will help us get richer projects finished.

Interim Provost Sue Balter-Reitz stated that, in order to get input from as many groups as possible, she will be doing a survey of faculty members on the multiple initiatives we currently have running. Each initiative can be ranked by respondents from *most important to important but less urgent to drop entirely*. Dr. Balter-Reitz welcomes feedback and ideas from the faculty.

Dr. Balter-Reitz also noted that, unfortunately, we will be doing the faculty awards virtually. The presentations will be recorded and put out for viewing. They are sad we can't have a party, but hopefully soon that will change.

Finally, Dr. Balter-Reitz noted that faculty sabbaticals are at the committee now and they hope to announce those soon.

### IV. OTHER REPORTS

None

### V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

**Item 15** Programs to be placed on moratorium as a result of Strategic Program Alignment Round 2:

International Studies Minor  
Philosophy Religious Studies Option Minor  
Philosophy Minor  
Digital Health Communication Certificate

⇒ Motion by Austin Bennett to **accept Item 15 for information.**

⇒ Motion carried.

**Item 16** Request to Plan: AAS in Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

⇒ Motion by Austin Bennett to **accept Item 16 for information.**

⇒ Motion carried.

**Item 17** Request to Plan: Institute for Neurodiversity and Applied Behavior Analysis.

⇒ Motion by Austin Bennett to **accept Item 17 for information.**

⇒ Motion carried.

## VI. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

|   |        |            |
|---|--------|------------|
| Broadfield Science Teaching Licensure Option Bachelor of Science Degree | Edited | 12/10/2020 |
|---|--------|------------|

⇒ Motion by Austin Bennett to **approve the Broadfield Science Teaching Licensure Option Bachelor of Science Degree.**

⇒ Motion carried.

|   |        |            |
|---|--------|------------|
| Mathematics Teaching Licensure Option Single Subject Endorsement Bachelor of Science Degree | Edited | 12/10/2020 |
|---|--------|------------|

⇒ Motion by Jen Lynn to **approve the Mathematics Teaching Licensure Option Single Subject Endorsement Bachelor of Science Degree.**

⇒ Motion carried.

## VII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

### A. Senate Bylaws:

- Results of Faculty Vote on Bylaws Change (Chair Removal)
- Adding Senate Policies as Bylaws Appendix

The general faculty voted in favor of the bylaws change, so the changes have been approved. They will be posted to the website soon.

Adding the policies to the bylaws made known that several of the policies are out of date. The Executive Committee will review them and bring changes to the Senate.

⇒ Motion by Austin Bennett that **the Senate policies be added to the bylaws as an appendix and will be cleaned up later.**

⇒ Motion carried.

**B. Possible Move of Annual Catalog Deadline to January**

Rita Rabe Meduna, Senate Administrative Assistant, noted that the Senate may want to move the deadline (currently the Thursday before Thanksgiving) later to give faculty and committees time to work. The ultimate deadline for course changes is when Summer registration opens in the Spring semester, which is around February 15. Ms. Rabe Meduna the end of January for the Senate deadline, but that only gives two to three weeks for Senate and the Provost to approve and for Banner implementation. Things are not going well with the CourseLeaf-Banner Bridge, which was supposed to make the transition from course proposal to Banner seamless. She suggested the Senate deadline be set for the end of Fall semester, whenever that happens to be.

It was agreed that the catalog deadline for curricular changes will be **the end of Fall semester**, starting with academic year 2021-22.

**C. University-Wide Faculty Committee Clearinghouse**

With several faculty members noting the large number of committees faculty are asked to serve on, it was suggested that we need a clearinghouse of all the committees on campus that may ask a faculty member to serve. Dr. Barron and Dr. Balter-Reitz agreed to work on this effort together, and the list would be maintained by the Provost's Office.

It was noted that search committees can't really be included in this list, only because they change from week to week as searches start and end.

They hope to have results by the next Senate meeting.

Chancellor Hicswa noted that she appreciates this effort, as she wants to help faculty to not be so exhausted.

**D. Online Programs: How much is enough to designate online in the catalog?**

The Senate has not weighed in on online programs. However, with COVID leading to many more online courses, accreditation agencies and the Board of Regents have become more concerned with online. Of course, they all have different levels of what is considered online. Dr. Balter-Reitz noted that the BOR just this month updated their policies and definitions for online courses and programs. It was suggested the rule for MSUB could be under 80% of courses online means the program is *not online*, 80% to 99% of the courses online means the program qualifies as *hybrid*, and 100% of courses online means the program qualifies as *online*. The Senate Executive Committee will discuss this further and come back to the Senate.

**E. Quality Matters: Training for Online/Hybrid/Hyflex Courses**

It was noted that eLearning has adopted Quality Matters, which fashions standards for online instruction while not treading on academic freedom. David Kendrick, Director of eLearning and Faculty Development, will be at the February 18 Senate meeting to discuss this topic further.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Barron noted that the Academic Programs Group discussed issues with students completing programs that have been deleted or placed on moratorium by SPA 2. Cheri Johannes, Registrar, will soon propose changing some of the language in the catalog that obligates us to allow students to complete a degree within six years.

The meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

rjrm