



## ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

**DATE:** October 15, 2020

**PRESENT:** Suzette Nynas  
Keith Edgerton  
Scott Butterfield  
Natalie Bohlmann  
John Pannell  
Vern Gagnon  
Austin Bennett  
Robert Nava (ex-officio)  
Melinda Arnold (ex-officio)  
Darlene Hert (ex-officio)

Jim Barron  
Jennifer Lynn  
Don Larsen  
Rachael Waller  
Heather Thompson-Bahm  
Sam Boerboom  
Christine Shearer (ex-officio)  
Vicki Trier (ex-officio)  
Jana Marcette (ex-officio)

**ABSENT:** Naomi Norris (student)\*  
Richard Beer (ex-officio)  
Kim Hayworth (ex-officio)  
\* *excused*

Kurt Toenjes (ex-officio)  
Susan Simmers (ex-officio)

**GUESTS:** Joy Honea  
Paul Pope  
Rolf Groseth

David Nedrow  
Kathleen Thatcher

**PRESIDING:** Jim Barron, Chair

---

Jim Barron called the meeting to order at 3:41 p.m. in room B036 of the City College Tech Building, with members and guests attending via Webex.

### I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

All day tomorrow will be web interviews with the chancellor candidate Stefani Hicswa. Academic Senate members and University campus faculty are invited to meet with the candidate at 2:00 p.m., and City College faculty are invited at 3:00 p.m. There is also an open forum at 6:00 p.m.

## II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of October 1 were accepted as presented.

## III. PROVOST REPORT

Dr. Arnold asked that all faculty please take active part in the interviews with the chancellor-elect.

Reminder that there is a COVID town hall every Thursday at 3:00 p.m. Everyone on campus is doing great, wearing masks, and staying six feet apart. However, people are picking up the virus off campus, so please be aware.

## IV. OTHER REPORTS

### **Faculty Evaluation of Administrators Committee: Paul Pope**

Dr. Pope reported that they are nearly done with the survey; they only need to work out some details on the questions regarding the chancellor. They will have the wording finished in a couple weeks, and will have a draft ready for the Senate to review and approve. Senators may send feedback to Dr. Pope. The survey is not meant to be negatively worded. The committee has also discussed how to deal with interims and administrators new to their positions.

The question was raised as to who will be evaluated by this survey. Dr. Pope responded that, given the purview of the Academic Senate, the committee decided only administrators directly involved with academics, curriculum, and faculty would be reviewed; that is, the deans, the vice provost, the provost, and the chancellor.

## V. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

CSTN 147: Blueprint Reading	Deleted	9/28/2020
CSTN 148: Blueprint Codes and Est.	Edited	9/28/2020
CSTN 250: Construction Estimating	Edited	9/28/2020
CSTN 271: Construction Project Mgmnt	Edited	9/28/2020
CSTN 272: Cnstrctn Estmtng Usng Databses	Deleted	9/28/2020
CSTN 280: Const Proj Schedule Control	Added	9/28/2020
CSTN 281: Construction Project Mgmnt II	Edited	9/28/2020
CSTN 298: Internship	Added	9/28/2020
Construction Management Associate of Applied Science Degree	Edited	10/6/2020
Construction Technology Carpentry Certificate of Applied Science	Edited	9/29/2020

⇒ Motion by Austin Bennett to **approve the above group of items.**

David Nedrow, Construction program, stated that these changes are a follow up to the extensive changes last year. The changes include adding an internship to alleviate some of the burden on himself, as he is the only instructor in the program, and will also reduce some of the lumber/lab costs.

⇒ Motion carried.

CSCI 124: Advanced C#/.NET	Edited	10/5/2020
CSCI 214: Server-Side Web Prog Admin	Edited	10/5/2020
Computer Programming and Application Development Associate of Applied Science Degree	Edited	10/5/2020

⇒ Motion by Vern Gagnon to **approve the above group of items.**

John Pannell stated that these changes just correct some mistakes he made in the rotation of courses.

⇒ Motion carried.

## VI. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

### A. Student Survey

Guest: Joy Honea, Social Sciences and Cultural Studies

Dr. Honea had the idea to survey students to see what they think of the various modalities their courses have been in during this semester. Since faculty are trying to plan for Spring with the same issues, this information would be helpful. We need to know what students have liked about these new modalities, and what has been bad. Academic Senate seemed like the appropriate place for this, but the survey will hopefully be sent by Institutional Research. The most important data to gather may be from students in courses designed to be face-to-face, but may be hybrid now, or only half the class meets in person at a time (ask how students get grouped into those groups). We could even ask about the courses that are face-to-face but a small group in a huge lecture hall. We would also want to question students in synchronous in-person and online classes, and course that have moved online. Getting the results back from students before the holidays hit would be best, in terms of planning for Spring.

Dr. Honea noted she would like help with writing the survey and reviewing the questions. Jim Barron, Jennifer Lynn, and Rachael Waller all agreed to help. Kathleen Thatcher, Director of Assessment, also volunteered to help.

## **B. SPA 2 Program Deletions Appealed to Senate: Follow Up**

The Senate thanked the Chancellor for reviewing and making decisions on the programs that appealed their case to the Senate. Some programs were retained and some were not.

Related, the Provost is working on a revised version of the letters that went out to departments regarding programs *maintained* by the SPA 2 Committee. They will be out soon, and Dr. Barron will be working with her, reviewing the letters. What is really needed is that faculty begin working on the course rotation and plan of study templates. Dr. Barron worked on the templates for biology, and he found it eye-opening. It's definitely a useful exercise. The deadline for responses is likely going to stay the end of April.

## **C. General Education Re-Envisioning**

In response to the GEC report at the last meeting, the Senate agreed we should have a discussion about the re-envisioning of Gen Ed. It is an immensely complex discussion. It was noted that the GEC needs to decide what system to use to evaluate the Gen Ed program, so we can have a review of it for our NWCCU report. Chancellor Groseth noted we will have an NWCCU visit a year from now. It was noted that faculty control the curriculum, and "too many courses" is not a reason for wholesale change of the program.

At this point, with no reason to rush, the Senate will allow the GEC to figure out their next steps. The Senate will hold off on a larger discussion of our Gen Ed vision until we can all be in a room together again. Dr. Barron will talk with the co-chairs of GEC for more detail on their reasoning for change.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

The Foundation is selling banners to local businesses. They are about one-and-a-half by one meter and will hang from light posts, just like they do in Bozeman and Missoula. Each banner is \$300, and Dr. Barron proposes the Senators sponsor one of these. The Senators agreed. The University Communications & Marketing office can also create a logo for the Academic Senate!

The Senate congratulated Heather Thomson-Bahm and Austin Bennett on being named as 2020 MUS Teaching Scholars by the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education.

The meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

rjrm