



ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

DATE: August 27, 2020

PRESENT: Suzette Nynas
Jennifer Lynn
Don Larsen
Rachael Waller
Heather Thompson-Bahm
Sam Boerboom
Naomi Norris (student)
Kurt Toenjes (ex-officio)
Robert Nava (ex-officio)
Melinda Arnold (ex-officio)
Darlene Hert (ex-officio)

Jim Barron
Scott Butterfield
Natalie Bohlmann
John Pannell
Vern Gagnon
Austin Bennett
Robin Cuningham (student)
Christine Shearer (ex-officio)
Vicki Trier (ex-officio)
Jana Marcette (ex-officio)

ABSENT: Keith Edgerton*
Susan Simmers (ex-officio)
* *excused*

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

GUESTS: Joy Honea
Susan Gilbertz
Cheri Johannes

Sue Balter-Reitz
Kathleen Thatcher

PRESIDING: Jim Barron, Chair

Jim Barron called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. in Library 148, with several members attending via Webex.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kelly McCoy has left the University, so his spot has been filled by John Pannell, who was just elected this week as the second of the two City College representatives. The Senate also welcomed Don Larsen, who could not attend the Spring meeting, and two new students, Robin Cuningham and Naomi Norris.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of April 23 were accepted as presented.

III. ELECTION OF CHAIR ELECT

The Chair Elect is chosen from one of the three Vice Chairs in the Fall of the current Chair's last year. The Chair Elect's term as Chair then begins the following April. Dr. Barron invited the Vice Chairs to make a statement if they wished.

Sam Boerboom stated that he would like to serve as Senate Chair eventually, but right now he is a department chair and their department has a number of changes to work through. He would prefer not to serve right now.

Jennifer Lynn declined to make a statement.

Heather Thompson-Bahm stated that she would like to be Chair. She is excited for the opportunity and enjoys listening to every side. She has experience with the City College faculty and eLearning.

The election was conducted by secret ballot. **Jennifer Lynn was elected as Chair Elect.**

IV. PROVOST REPORT

It's wonderful to see students back on campus!

V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Item 1 Committee Report for 2019-2020: Graduate Committee.

Item 2 Committee Report for 2019-2020: Undergraduate Curriculum Committee.

Item 3 Emeritus Nomination: Michael Campbell, Department of Business Administration, College of Business. For information.

Item 4 Committee Report for 2019-2020: Commencement Committee.

Item 5 Emeritus Nomination: Lisa Kemmerer, Department of English, Philosophy & Modern Languages, College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences. For information.

Item 6 Committee Report for 2019-2020: Library Committee.

⇒ Motion by Jennifer Lynn to **accept Items 1, 2, 4, and 6 for information.**

⇒ Motion carried.

⇒ Motion by Don Larsen to **accept Item 3.**

⇒ Motion carried.

⇒ Motion by Austin Bennett to **accept Item 5.**

⇒ Motion carried.

VI. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. CourseLeaf Curriculum Inventory Management (CIM) Training September 2-4

There will be four sessions at different times next week. Anyone who does anything with the curriculum needs to sign up—that means all faculty!

B. Senate Catalog Deadline Move to December 9

With the changed schedule for the Fall 2020 semester and the new CourseLeaf program being rolled out, it was agreed that the annual catalog deadline will be moved to December 9, 2020.

C. SPA 2 Discussion

Given the faculty concerns about the SPA 2 process, the faculty who are opposed to their program cuts should be invited to a Senate meeting to discuss.

Joy Honea, president of the (University campus) Faculty Association, stated that they conducted a brief survey in April, to gather the faculty views on the SPA 2 process. Given the issues with COVID-19 and the campus shut-down, the fact that the charges for the faculty reports came out late, and then-Chancellor Edelman stating in an email (April 3) that the SPA process would be linked to the budget, the survey was sent to the faculty after the reports were due but before the results were announced. However, the survey remained open for some time, so responses include both those who did not know the results and those that did know. Fifty-nine faculty members participated, which is just over 50% of the University campus faculty. City College faculty and part-time faculty were not included. The survey included only two questions: responder's role in SPA 2 (if any) and agreement or disagreement with the statement *Overall, I approve of the process used for the SPA initiative*, followed by an open comment box. Result: 79.66% of faculty responded either disagree or strongly disagree. Dr. Honea noted that the faculty who did not respond may have been fine with the process, which may be why they did not take the time to do the survey. If the non-responders are included with those who agreed or were ambivalent, that's still 40% of the faculty who were unhappy with the process.

It was noted that any discussion of the SPA 2 process is not intended to stop any cuts or changes. Faculty who believe their program was cut due to erroneous data need a place to speak up about it.

In the Spring, members of the Senate asked to delay the SPA 2 deadline because of COVID-19. The administration refused and then moved up the deadline. Voluntary separation agreements were pre-determined before the SPA 2 reports were due in April. So, the suggestion that the faculty write reports and those reports would be considered was disingenuous. Faculty would like to address this.

The deadline to get paperwork to the Board of Regents is September 15. The Senate cannot change the list, but it can request a few programs be looked at again.

⇒ Motion by Jennifer Lynn that **given the concerns of faculty about the SPA process, the Senate invites faculty who oppose their program cut to attend the next Senate meeting on September 10 to discuss their program.**

⇒ Motion carried.

D. Fall General Faculty Meeting

The bylaws state we should have a General Faculty Meeting every year, but we haven't had one in a few years. It was initially planned for August, but with the changed Fall semester, that plan was cancelled. At this point, a group that large will have to be an online meeting.

It was suggested that the meeting be held in early October. It was also suggested that the meeting be held jointly with the two faculty unions.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Update from ASMSUB: elections are September 9 & 10. If you know of a student who is interested in student government, encourage them to run! Also, ASMSUB is forming a "campus enhancements" group. If students have ideas about how to improve campus, let them know!

It was noted that students are having lots of trouble with hybrid courses and changing schedules. A course that was going to meet two or three times per week in person has shifted to maybe once a week in person, but instructors keep changing the schedule. This is especially difficult for working students. If one week the in-person class is on Monday at 2:00, but the next week it's on Wednesday at 4:00, that's very difficult to plan for. It also results in students showing up at the wrong times. Faculty need to keep schedules as consistent as possible.

⇒ Motion by Robin Cuningham that the Senate **send out a message to faculty to encourage them to keep class schedules that are consistent on a weekly basis.**

⇒ Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

rjrm