



ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

DATE: September 9, 2021

PRESENT: Suzette Nynas
Mara Pierce
Scott Butterfield
Susan Gregory
Paul Pope
Austin Bennett
Susan Gilbertz (ex-officio)
Sep Eskandari (ex-officio)
Darlene Hert (ex-officio)

Matt Queen
Jennifer Lynn
Rakesh Sah
John Pannell
Sam Boerboom
Kurt Toenjes (ex-officio)
Vicki Trier (ex-officio)
Jana Marcette (ex-officio)

ABSENT: Rachael Waller*
Tami Haaland (ex-officio)
Susan Simmers (ex-officio)
* *excused*

Heather Thompson-Bahm*
Ed Garding (ex-officio)
Kim Hayworth (ex-officio)

GUESTS: Kathleen Thatcher
Cheri Johannes

Claire Doyle

PRESIDING: Jennifer Lynn, Chair

Jennifer Lynn called the meeting to order at 3:44 p.m. in the Chancellor's Conference Room, with some members attending via webex.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Lynn welcomed new Senator Susan Gregory, COE representative.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of April 22 and August 27 were accepted as presented.

III. PROVOST & CHANCELLOR REPORTS

Chancellor Hicswa is out of town today.

Provost Eskandari thanked the Senators for their service, noting that he has served on faculty senate many year himself.

Dr. Eskandari noted they have been having weeks and weeks of conversations about COVID, resulting in the strong recommendation that came from the Chancellor to wear masks indoors on campus, as well as get vaccinated. Of course, at this time we can only recommend. Just today, he also recommended that faculty create seating charts for their classes, because they help a great deal with contact tracing, should a student become ill. They are also recommending isolation and/or quarantining for those who have tested positive. The COVID Task Force has maximized access to masks, so there should be masks available in every instructional space on campus, and they will be replenished as needed. If masks are missing from a space, please let Dr. Eskandari know.

If faculty ask their students to mask, most do comply. Many students may become infected, and the best way faculty can help is to do an Early Alert for a student who is missing from class.

The question was raised as to the large number of students on campus tours who were not masked, including the staff leading those tours. Dr. Eskandari responded that we are strongly encouraging all staff and faculty to wear masks and model that behavior for students, but we must also respect individual choices.

IV. OTHER REPORTS

None.

V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Item 1 Committee Report for 2020-2021: Library Committee.

⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Rakesh Sah to **accept Item 1 for information.**

⇒ Motion carried.

Item 2 Emeritus Nomination: Cheryl Young-Pelton, Department of Educational Theory and Practice, College of Education. For information.

Item 3 Emeritus Nomination: Alan Christensen, Department of Educational Theory and Practice, College of Education. For information.

⇒ Motion by Suzette Nynas, seconded by Paul Pope to **accept Items 2 & 3 for information.**

⇒ Motion carried.

Item 4 Committee Report for 2020-2021: Commencement Committee.

⇒ Motion by Matt Queen, seconded by Paul Pope to **accept Item 4 for information.**

⇒ Motion carried.

Item 5 Committee Report for 2020-2021: Academic Standards & Scholastic Standing Committee.

⇒ Motion by Suzette Nynas, seconded by Rakesh Sah to **accept Item 5 for information.**

It was noted that the Academic Standards & Scholastic Standing Committee approved a summer internship for a student, when that student had no proof they had done anything. The student was told the steps for an internship, including a set of responsibilities, all of which must be approved before the internship starts. These things were never done, but the student claimed the internship was accomplished and appealed to ASSSC. The student was approved by the ASSSC to be awarded 3 credits for this undocumented internship. Have we become an institution where a student pays and they get a degree, regardless of performance? It was also noted that feedback was requested by the faculty involved and there was no response from the Committee members.

It was noted that the Committee report states there were 342 appeals received by the Committee, 336 of which were approved. If there is such a high rate of changes to policy, are we maintaining the rigor of the University?

It was agreed that the Chair of Academic Standards & Scholastic Standing will be asked to attend an upcoming Senate meeting to discuss the Committee's policies and procedures.

⇒ Motion carried.

VI. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Item 7 Committee Roster for 2021-2022.

⇒ Motion by Rakesh Sah, seconded by Paul Pope to **approve Item 7.**

⇒ Motion carried.

VII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Curriculum Question: Who needs to see a program modality change?

The Senate discussed this last semester, and over the summer a list of program modality questions was added to the program form in CourseLeaf. If faculty are changing a program to be available entirely or even partially online, should that change go through all the committees?

The question was raised as to whether we are approving or only acknowledging a change. Kathleen Thatcher, Director of Assessment & Accreditation, noted that we do have to seek approval from NWCCU for a program that is 50% or more online. Provost Eskandari noted that programs can accidentally be entirely online; it needs to be an intentional decision to offer a program this way. The program roadmaps and course rotations that all programs are being asked to complete will help clarify this question.

⇒ Motion by Suzette Nynas that **a program modality change will go through the regular curricular process, including all committees.**

⇒ Motion carried.

B. COVID-19 and Senate Meetings

With the rise in infection rates, we will move our next couple Senate meetings to Library 148 for social distancing.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

rjrm