

Minutes Faculty Senate Meeting 10/19/18

Welcome

Donni calls meeting to order at 1:48.

Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes from September: Secretary misspelled three names, which will be corrected. Otherwise, accepted.

Action Items

Joint Task Force (Senate and Union) on Faculty Leadership Positions

Any questions or comments the charge of task force?

C: We should have a member of the Senate on the task force also.

Joe Trout volunteers to be a member.

C: Concern about graduate school representation not being adequate.

- We don't want too many people on the committee.
- The representative from EDUC is also a graduate school faculty.

C: Is the task force going to make a recommendation about the structure?

- Yes, and the goal is for them to report to us at the retreat in the summer, before we go to the negotiating table.

Voting on the charge and membership: Accepted unanimously.

Discussion Items

Strategic Planning

Executive committee met and decided that it will be best to wait until D.J. submits its final report and it is amended by Provost Office. It would then come to us for a first reading in January. Then we would have a second reading in March, maybe. Then we need to think about implementation. Then we can come back to the question of whether the Senate should have representation in the on-going implementation of the plan.

Q: At what point do we think the University will accept the plan?

- If we say we say we are okay with it after the second read, it will then go to the Board of Trustees in May.

Q: Do we believe they will actually listen to us?

- We would like to think so. Administrators suggest they will. Some of us have already made some suggestions that seem to have been taken seriously.

Q: What is our final decision look like? Are we voting to accept the document?

- Yes, but that wouldn't happen until the spring because it is still a draft.

C: There are going to be open forums, and I encourage senators to go to their school and encourage faculty to attend.

Q: Are the terms of the plan 5 or 10 years?

- There was a suggestion of 5 years, but now there is no specifically set time period.

C: I support a standing committee to evaluate progress.

- Once we are comfortable with the document, we will then consider how – standing committee or otherwise – how we want to proceed.

Please go back to your schools and encourage faculty to attend School Meetings, where the President will be discussing this in more detail, including financial information.

Action Item

Early Registration

The Executive Committee met and realized that the Senate already addressed this and recommended that student athletes not be able to register early. We now want to restate that we continue to be against this.

C: I was on the Policies Committee at the time, and we did get feedback on this, but we still decided against this.

C: I have heard a lot of opposition to this from students. Has the Student Senate ever considered this?

- We don't know.

Administrator: There was actually considerable evidence for the original pilot study. After that pilot year, we had put on the agenda the continuation of the pilot and there were no problems with it from the deans.

- But the Senate did not recommend continuation beyond the pilot.
- Did the Policies Committee get any information about the outcome of the pilot?
- No, we did not.

Discussion from Senators and others in attendance establish that there was no approval by the Senate to continue early registration for student athletes and that Policies Committee voted to not continue the pilot.

C: Students in general, were never asked about whether they support early registration for the athletes.

C: I was in favor of some policy that allowed some groups of students to register early, but not just athletes. It would be good to have a policy that allowed different groups of students able to request to have early registration. So we should consider that.

- This was the recommendation made by the Policies Committee – that it should be flexible.

Q: What was the goal of allowing athletes to register early? Are there data showing the outcome?

C (Associate Director of Athletics): Yes, we did have data not this. We weren't given information on what to provide, so we provided a narrative and assumed that it would be an on-going process. We can get some data on this. The goal was a reduction of missed class time, and we have seen that. Student athletes are not registering before everyone else, just earlier.

- What was the missed class rate before and after the pilot?

- We don't have that because we weren't asked for it so this will be difficult to get.

C: The current procedures are based on class rank. Right now, based on University procedures, there is no policy allowing early registration to happen for any group.

- We want some hard data demonstrating why this should continue.

C: Suggestion: no one is listening that we didn't want this to continue. Let's collect the data.

- Let's use the data that we have now.

C: We have the technology to get the hard data.

C: If there is early registration for one group, then it will adversely influence others' ability to graduate on time. So early registration for one group is unfair.

C: Agreed. But the point of the resolution from Policies Committee is that this is unfair and that there needs to be a more equitable policy.

C: If other schools are offering early registration for athletes, then it makes sense for us to consider it. But it's still unfair to favor athletes over other groups.

C: Other students do not have advocates to support their case for early registration like athletes do.

Administrator: The whole reason we considered this is because student athletes came to us arguing that they have a need. And there are other groups who are registering early.

- There is no policy allowing for any group to register early.

C: The fact is that we voted on this at least once and we have a negative attitude toward this and I would like to move on.

Motion to close debate. Seconded.

Vote on resolution that the Faculty Senate recommends the Provost end the practice of early registration for athletes unless clear outcomes can be produced for the need to continue this practice.

Passed 27-4

Information Items

Timely Warnings – Adrian J. Wiggin, Director of Campus Public Safety

Pushed to next meeting.

Meeting closes at 3:00.