

Minutes of the Meeting of the Faculty Senate

March 24, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 4:51.

1. Overview of AC Campus Committees and update on their recent activities

Rodger Jackson announced that presentations have been presented to schools. The Academic Policies Committee is composed of half faculty and half administration. They are working on a web page. There is also a Facilities and Finance Committee and a Student Affairs Committee. A Coordinating Committee will coordinate information from all committees.

2. Reminder of new semester length starting Fall 2015

Rodger Jackson announced that the new academic calendar was a matter of consultation and negotiation between the administration and the Union. The new calendar is on the web. December 17th is final day of classes. Grades are due December 22nd for undergraduates. The senate might want to consider an action that would eliminate winter graduation.

Senate discussion clarified that students would have their credentials without walking in the ceremony and that eliminating the ceremony would save a significant amount of money. Harvey Kesselman noted that graduate ceremonies have moved to spring and no other sister colleges have winter graduations. The new schedule adds reading days and addresses the problem of graduation on Mother's Day. The issue was brought up by the student senate who wanted reading days. The new calendar fulfills Stockton's obligations for Carnegie minutes.

3. Announce creation of a Pan College Task Force on Class and Meeting Modules in conjunction with Academic Affairs Task Force on Atlantic City

The Executive Committee will send out language of a charge and membership suggestions to be voted on in April. Harvey Kesselman announced there is significant delay in what might occur on Atlantic City Campus due to a covenant that in order for the Showboat to reopen it has to be a casino.

Rodger Jackson noted that the question about meeting and class modules has been important for a long time and the Teaching Circles and others have asked senate to investigate the issue. He suggested there might be simple solutions to ongoing problems, but that it does not need to be addressed if the senate feels it is not an appropriate use of time. Emari DiGiorgio stated there is support for looking at the meeting modules from Teaching Circles, COACHE, and the Union survey.

4. Discuss Academic Programs and Policies' recent decision regarding whether to create a standard field trip policy announcement document

Brian Tyrell explained that some faculty members have expressed concern that students are missing some of their classes for field trips and there is no way to verify the trip. Academic Policies discussed the issue and voted unanimously not to make it a matter of policy leaving the

decision of whether to excuse the absence or not to the faculty member whose student is missing class.

Rodger Jackson suggested sending the issue back to the committee to consider whether there should be policy regarding field trips. Given that they had already made that decision, Brian Tyrell suggested charging Academic Programs and Policies to create a policy.

There was discussion regarding whether the charge should be to establish guidelines or a procedure. Rodger Jackson suggested creating a standard form modeled on the one used for athletics. Discussion focused on the distinction between creating a standard form versus establishing a policy that all faculty taking field trips are responsible for notifying other faculty.

Motion: Academic Policies will develop standardized form that could be issued to any faculty member whose students are going on field trips.

Rodger Jackson suggested the senate could consider whether there should be a policy in April. The form could still exist without a policy requiring it to be used.

Vote was in favor with one opposed.

5. Charge Academic Policies to ascertain whether procedures for selecting Academic Honesty Appeals Board members should be standardized and/or modified, and if so, to make recommendations as to what approach should be adopted

Brian Tyrell explained that the Academic Honesty Board is hard to fill and that elections could make it harder to get people to serve. Rodger Jackson explained that there is no term for Academic Honesty and no equivalent sign-up sheet as for other committees. Academic Policies should examine whether there should be a term for membership on the Academic Honesty Board. Then the election process could be handled in the same manner as for other committees.

Rodger Jackson charged Academic Policies to ascertain whether procedures for selecting Academic Honesty Appeals Board members should be standardized and/or modified, and if so, to make recommendations as to what approach should be adopted.

6. Charge General Studies Committee to investigate whether current process of proposing new G-courses could be streamlined

Some faculty have suggested the current application process for a General Studies course is too difficult. Required documents are repetitive and include different types of learning outcomes that duplicate each other. The time frame for teaching a new course may also be too long. Discussion covered specific requirements for the form and debate regarding whether a year is an unreasonable length of time to require between proposing and teaching a G course.

Rodger Jackson charged the General Studies Committee to investigate whether current process of proposing new G-courses could be streamlined.

7. Update on WGSS Center

Rodger Jackson announced that an Interim Director has been appointed for the new center with support from Provost's office.

8. Update on Faculty Senate website

Jennifer Lyke announced that the new senate website is nearing completion. It will be modifiable by the senate itself instead of going through a third party to post material. Computer Services is still working on it but it should be finished by the April meeting.

9. New business cards concerns

Rodger Jackson announced that faculty have expressed concern that there appear to be two sets of business cards, one for faculty and one for administrators. Administrators' cards are in color and have the seal while faculty cards do not, creating a two-tiered system. He suggested senators should ask their colleagues about this concern.

10. Other business

Nominations for senate positions close tomorrow. Elections are next week. The next senate meeting is in April with the retreat in May. The Task Force on Dual Credit will present preliminary findings, but they may need to continue and that decision will need to be approved by senate. Dave Burdick suggested the senate should do something special for Harvey's leaving.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:56.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Lyke, Secretary of the Faculty Senate