

The Comm

8/17/2023

The 2023-2024 academic year is underway and Faculty Senate (FS) has had their inaugural meeting. TLDR: Committees assigned, drama at the library, and technical issues still loom.

Minutes

Senator Brigham provided multiple modifications to both the May 4th and August 10th minutes.

President's report

The president was not able to join FS for this meeting.

Provost's Report

The provost, Dr. Parikh, was not able to join FS, but sent Assistant Vice Provost Dr. Chris Schroeder as his proxy. Provost's office is aware of technical issues and limited resources to fix them. Please complete the student census. The undergraduate curriculum schedule will be available shortly.

Senator Adams raised a concern about communication and technology within Breckinridge Hall. Specifically, faculty feel under supported with office and classroom technology as well as software (Microsoft Windows). Resources to facilitate better classroom technology integration would be appreciated including, but not limited to, Mac vs. PC training, browsers (Microsoft Edge), etc. We need policy to clarify appropriate chain of command and what to do with stall outs. Senator Dr. Nettie Brock added that when signs are available, they say do not touch anything, further hindering technology use.

Senator Brigham asked about the process and timeline for the various hirings that should begin shortly. Dr. Schroeder said that there has been no change to plans to conduct a full search for all interim positions.

Faculty Regent's Report

Senator Dr. Joyce Stubbs reported that the inaugural meeting for the 2023-2024 academic year will be at 9:30AM in ADUC 329 on 8/18/2023.

Staff Congress Report

No representative for Staff Congress attended this meeting.

SGA Report

Presley Boyer, the SGA president, attended today's meeting in lieu of SGA Vice President Clayton Anderson. Their first meeting will be 9/6/23 at 6:30PM. Senator Brigham requested a calendar of SGA events.

FS Committee Reports

Executive Council. A new comm officer has been appointed: Dr. Lydia Njoroge from the School of Business Administration. Committee Assignments have been made with the hope to balance colleges, experience, and senator preferences. At current, we do not have a parliamentarian. If you know someone who is well versed in Robert's Rules and is looking for service, please have them reach out. Minor modifications were made to the regular schedule of every first and third Thursday. FS President Chatham has decided to keep FS online for the time being.

Academic Issues (AI). Chaired by Dr. Annie Adams of the Humanities, discussed QEP in elective vs. required courses. An engineering faculty member is unable to teach without a specific software program. IT office is having trouble with clear communication and resolutions beyond 'teach around the deficit.'

Evaluation. Chaired by Dr. Kurt Gibbs of the College of Science. No current report. This committee will meet next week to review old and new business. Senator Brigham asked about the scope of this committee (leadership vs. all faculty). Senator Gibbs confirmed they are responsible for all faculty evaluation policy.

Faculty Welfare and Concerns (FWC). Chaired by Dr. Stephen Brigham of the School of Business Administration, this committee continue working on reviewing PACs as established by previous chair Dr. Tim Hare. Senator Brigham attempted to expedite a solution for the engineering faculty. ORP changes are full steam ahead. First meeting is Thursday of next week at 3:45.

Governance. Chaired by Dr. Lesia Lennex of the College of Education. They are responsible for managing the standing and advisory committees. Senator Lennex is working to have the website updated to help facilitate communication and documentation. A major change is that the Distinguished Researcher (Dr. Jen O'Keefe of Geology) will sit on the Research and Creative Productions committee instead of the Excellence in Teaching committee. Additional changes to committee descriptions are forthcoming. First meeting is next week on Thursday at 3:45 via WebEx.

Old Business

Senator Brigham raised concern about issues with the library that the EC recently received an update about from Mr. Dieter Ullrich and Tom Kmetz. Senator Kmetz presented the concerns of the library staff:

- 1) space lost to Career Services without plan for displaced materials (10,000+ items),
- 2) No empty shelves to place materials current covering countertops,
- 3) Implication that displaced item are a result of lack of weeding,
- 4) Dated materials due to lack of funding to replace/update (last budget change was 1999),
- 5) cataloguing 'department' is a single person.
- 6) Provost has requested to attend librarians' meeting to facilitate direct communication,

Senator Adams: Not all 'dated' materials need to be replaced especially in humanities.

Senator Brigham: Accreditors may force us to budget maintenance resources for library.

AVP Schroeder: Looking to find a way to pursue new library study space while working with librarians' concerns.

Senator Adams: Concerns about office hours being moved to library study room.

New Business

No new Business was raised.

Summary

This meeting of Faculty Senate was relatively short because the semester has just gotten underway. The senators seem ready to get to work. That is all for The Comm from the USS Morehead. Back to you captain.