

The Communications Report

9/12/2024

This was a called meeting of the Faculty Senate. There was only one item of business on the Agenda.

President Lennex called the meeting to order at 3:45pm.

Communication Regarding Provost Initiated Actions

President Lennex stressed that the purpose of the special meeting was to share information. There was a request at the previous Senate meeting (from 9-05-24) for more information providing context to the ongoing discussions about the Provost and the claims brought to the attention of the Faculty Welfare and Concerns Committee that prompted the recommendation to survey the entire faculty as to their opinions of Provost Parikh's performance. It was clarified that this document was prepared at the request of the Faculty Senate, so that everyone had access to the same information. After a brief aside, addressing concerns about the file format of the meeting agenda, President Lennex recognized Senator Adams to go over a prepared document chronicling the timeline of events brought up in the original statement from the Faculty Welfare and Concerns Committee. This document is titled "Explanatory Timelines" and can be found in the Faculty Senate Blackboard shell.

After providing a brief overview, during which the Senators reviewed the document themselves, the floor was opened to discussion and questions. There were questions raised as to how to best share the information and the survey link.

There was also a lengthy discussion as to whether and to what extent the prepared document would bias the survey results, should it be disseminated along with the survey link. The consensus of those that helped prepare the document was that the document contained nothing but verifiable facts and was not intended to sway the opinion of anyone reading them, only to allow them to make informed decisions. Senator Fitzpatrick asked as to when and how the Provost would be able to speak to the claims being made and potentially present another side of the story. President Lennex took this opportunity to invite Provost Parikh to address the Senate, as he was in attendance. The Provost did not accept this invitation.

After the cessation of questions and comments, there were a series of votes where it was unanimously decided that:

1. The survey should be sent out to all faculty, in accordance with the recommendation of the Faculty Welfare and Concerns Committee.
2. The statement of the Faculty Welfare and concerns Committee that prompted this should form the body of the email inviting faculty to complete the survey.
3. The link to the survey should be in the body of the email, not in the timeline document that would be attached.
4. The Survey would be sent out the following Monday (September 6).

The meeting adjourned at 4:55pm.