Faculty Senate Meeting

Minutes (DRAFT)

October 13, 2017

Island Hall 323

Senators Attending: Eugene Bland, Lisa Comparini, Vanessa Crocker, Cristi Day, Catherine Harrel, Timothy Klaus, Edward Kownslar, Karen Loveland, Laura Martinez, Cherie McCollough, Joseph Mollick, Miguel Moreno, Dorina Murgulet, Kimberly Reinhardt, Petru-Aurelian Simionescu, David Smith, Frank Spaniol, Joshua Watson, Kim Withers

Ex-Officio & Guests: Amy Aldridge Sanford, Ed Evans, Ted Guffy, Kevin Houlihan, Andy Piker, Ben Soto

1. Call to Order: Spaniol called the meeting to order at 2 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda: Smith made a motion to approve the agenda. Crocker seconded. Agenda approved unanimously.

3. Approval of September Minutes: Harrel made a motion to approve the minutes. Watson seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved with no corrections.

4. Speaker’s Report: (1) All of the senate’s vacancies have been filled by election, and Spaniol welcomed the new senators and asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves. (2) Provost’s search: the committee conducted airport interviews with 10 candidates during the week of October 9. The committee will probably invite four candidate for campus interviews. Spaniol asked everyone to be involved in those interviews. (3) Kevin Houlihan is working with the Student Government Association on a policy for mid-term grades. The policy will come to the senate for feedback. (4) Academic Affairs is working on an academic continuity plan. Kevin Houlihan explained the specifics to the senate. (5) Merit and Equity Task Force: Members will be selected from the colleges (including the faculty senate) and the university’s business manager. Spaniol will send the committee roster when it is finalized. The committee will start meeting in late October or early November. (6) There have been complaints that people cannot see the sign interpreters at the commencement ceremonies. University administration will work on finding a solution. (7) Spaniol discussed some of the faculty concerns with the Provost and the President. (8) Not as much attention is being to the campus’ appearance as before. Several senators said that some of the building interiors also need improvement. University administration will look into this issue. Amy Aldridge Sanford said that the student volunteer connection would also be willing to help. (9) Spaniol would like the senators to consider the ways they can communicate senate issues with their colleges and units, including forums and sharing news at college meetings. (10) There have been concerns about the cost of textbooks. Also, different sections for the same course sometimes have different assigned textbooks. Spaniol said that he had heard of a clearinghouse that offers textbooks at lower prices, and he will check on it. (11) The university might be offering a training on plagiarism for new students. (12) The senate is still working on the faculty/staff survey, and the survey should be available soon. (13) Spaniol thanked the Awards, Bylaws and Election Committee for conducting the special elections.

5. Old Business (Faculty Affairs): Harrel presented the highlights and background of the Faculty Development Leave policy (12.99.01.C0.01), which was sent back to the Faculty Affairs Committee for further review during the spring and summer. The FA committee was concerned about creating another college-level committee to consider applications. Harrel introduced the policy for a senate vote.

Mollick made a motion to make an amendment. Bland seconded. Mollick’s motion stated: “All applications will be ranked by the college committee before sending them to the Dean for a letter of support.” Smith called the question. For Mollick’s proposed amendment, 2 senators voted for; 11 senators voted against; and 6 senators abstained. Mollick’s proposed amendment did not pass.

Loveland made a motion for an amendment to Section 3.3. Day seconded. Loveland’s proposed amendment for Section 3.3 stated: “All completed applications for forwarded to the director of the CFE.” All other language in that section would be deleted. The question was called. For Loveland’s proposed amendment, 12 senators voted for; 5 senators voted against; and 3 senators abstained. Loveland’s proposed amendment passed.

Crocker made a motion for an amendment to Section 2.3. Comparini seconded. Crocker proposed removing the first sentence from Section 2.3. Loveland proposed a friendly amendment to delete all of Section 2.3. Crocker accepted. Klaus called to question. For Crocker’s amendment, 14 senators voted for; 0 senators voted against; and 4 senators abstained. Crocker’s proposed amendment passed.

Bland proposed an amendment to Section 2.7 to change the second sentence. Loveland proposed a friendly amendment to change the first sentence: “Faculty taking a 1-semester leave will have full benefits; faculty members taking a 2-semester leave may have reduced benefits.” Bland accepted Loveland’s amendment. Withers called to question. The votes for the amendment: 11 senators voted for; 1 senator voted against; and 6 senators abstained. Loveland’s amendment passed.

Loveland proposed an amendment for Section 4.g. of the policy. McCullough seconded. Loveland proposed adding “if included” at the end of that section.

Smith made a motion to table the Faculty Development Leave Policy and send it back to committee. Withers seconded. The vote for Smith’s motion: 12 senators voted for; 7 senators voted against; and 0 senators abstained. Smith’s motion was approved.

6. Committee Reports:

a. Academic Affairs: Day reported for Valadez. The committee did not approve the proposed certificate in dance because of a discrepancy in numbers and hours.

b. Faculty Affairs: (1) Harrel reported that the committee approved two policies and procedures for the professional librarians: 33.99.04.CO.04 and 12.07.99.CO.02. Both documents were presented to the senate for a vote. Both documents were unanimously approved. (2) University administration asked the Faculty Affairs Committee to review one section of the Academic Freedom document (12.01.99.CO.02); the committee only had one suggestion for a grammatical change in the introductory paragraph.

c. Committee on Committees: Smith will meet with the University’s Committee on Committees and will then talk to the librarians and the faculty in the Department of Undergraduate Studies about becoming more involvement on university committees.

d. Awards, Bylaws and Elections: (1) The committee conducted two elections on Qualtrix. (2) The committee’s recommendation on the First Year Advocate Award was forwarded to the Provost. (3) The committee will soon solicit nominations for the Piper Awards and the university excellence awards.

e. Budget Analysis: Bland reported that the committee met with Professor Steve Hall, who teaches government accounting in the College of Business. These meetings will help the committee better understand university budgets.

7. Liaison Reports:

a. CIPRA: Withers attended their meeting and said that they were considering a proposal about changing the way that seat assignments for the colleges, PIs and research assistants are assigned. There are currently 21 members of the council. The university is conducting a search for a new compliance director. Withers submitted her report to Laura Marino as an attachment for the senate’s October minutes.

b. Undergraduate Council: Crocker reported for Valadez. The council is making curriculum changes without any problems. Allison Frost is the new chair.

c. Graduate Council: Mollick reported that the council approved all applications for graduate faculty status. He said that the council would be looking at a lot of proposed course changes.

d. Staff Council: Spaniol reported that Debra Cortinas, head of Human Resources, will speak to the senate in November. He will also ask an IRB representative to speak at a senate meeting.

8. Provost’s Comments: (1) Guffy reported that, in addition to the Provost’s search committee, there are three other committees to fill the top administrative positions on campus. Guffy is chairing the search committee for the VP of Marketing and Communications. The application deadlines will occur in late October, and they will start screening applications in early November. (2) He has told the college deans that the senators will probably be speaking at their meetings. (3) For the cleaning and maintenance issues on campus, Guffy said that Terry Tatum has been working with the groups responsible, but there have been problems.

9. For the Good of the Order: Spaniol thanked everyone for their discussions about issues and their efforts.

10. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.