**Faculty Senate Minutes**

**April 21, 2021 – 12:00-1:20pm – Held via Zoom**

**In attendance:** Abourahma, Altmiller, Bechtel, Becker, Bellino, Bender, Bennett, Boero, Borders, Bowen, Bruno, Bush, Bwire, Cathell, Curtis, Dahling, Dickinson, Gevertz, Hagedorn, Kim-Bossard, Knox, Lasher, Li (Bruce), Li (Rebecca), McBride, McMann, Meixner, O’Connor, Pearlstein, Prensky, Ryan, Salgian, Samanta, Singer, Steele, Tang, Toloudis, Warner-Ault.

**Excused:** Dempf, Haikes.

**Absent:** Burroughs, Haynes.

**Minutes**

* The minutes of the April 7, 2021, meeting were approved as submitted.

**Announcements**

* The Senate elections are underway. Both the Library and School of Business had the exact number of self-nominations for the available seats, so there was no need for ballots for those two. The other ballots will close on Monday.
* Matt will send out a request for self-nominations to the SEB after the election closes. SEB has one more meeting on 5/10/21 and will vote on the slate of self-nominations at that time.
  + SEB is comprised of the president, vice-president, parliamentarian, and 5 at-large members, plus BoT representatives. It meets Fridays from 3:30-5:00pm. The term is 1 year.
* Matt will also be sending out a request for service on the governance committees.

**Discussion on Derek Chauvin Decision**

* Matt opened up the floor for a brief discussion on the Derek Chauvin trial decision.
* Discussion.

**Holistic Administrative and Academic Assessments**

* The college has hired Huron Consulting Group to hold an administrative and academic assessment of the college.
* There are 2 steering committees for this assessment, one for the academic assessment and one for the administrative assessment. Most of the faculty members on the academic committee are department chairs.
* Discussion and questions.

**Campus Updates (Reports)**

* Steering – Jill Bush
  + Steering Committee met on 4/7/2021.  Next meeting is 5/1/2021.   We are currently discussing the following:  **1)** a charge to CAP regarding the Supervisor Certificate Program to check which units on campus might be affected and if the certification proposal is consistent with the College’s mission. **2)** creation of ad hoc task force on online and blended learning (consisting of faculty, students, and staff) to develop and present updated guidance for academic department/schools regarding blended and online learning and strategic use of those modalities.   **3)**  a charge to the Liberal Learning Council to update the learning outcomes for the LL program and to implement recommendations made by LL self-study, external report, and LL task force by revising learning outcomes of LL program; ensure final outcomes are student learning outcomes and measurable across all courses/experiences; and ensure every outcome has appropriate level of demonstrated proficiency.
* CAP – Abby O’Connor
  + CAP is collecting more testimony from stakeholders regarding changes to the Graduate Admissions policy.
  + CAP is collecting written testimony on the International Credit Transfer and Exchange. Please provide feedback via the Google Form.
  + CAP received testimony for the proposed changes to the CEL program. The subcommittee will have a final recommendation to send to Rob and Brittany on CELC and Steering by the end of the semester.
  + CAP is working to revise the Syllabus Policy as part of a 5-year review.
  + An initial recommendation regarding the interim Camera and Recording policy will be shared soon with the campus community. Campus-wide testimony will be collected before the end of the semester.
  + CAP is working on revising the policy on the ungraded option as part of a 5-year review. We are working to determine if the policy needs to be updated to reflect a change needed for ungraded courses on the campus.
* CFA – Linda Dempf (sent via email)
  + CFA has been reviewing Disciplinary Standards and is making progress on four charges.

1. Timeline for Promotion Appeals and Start Date of Departmental PRCs: CFA gathered electronic testimony on its preliminary recommendation for changes to the Reappointment and Promotions Document. Feedback was generally positive, and we are incorporating the feedback and comments into the final recommendation.
2. Assessment of Advising charge: CFA gathered electronic and oral feedback from Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, and Student Government on its Preliminary Recommendation of Assessment of Advising.  The main concern brought up by several people was how the data gathered is being used and shared to make it a useful assessment. CFA discussed the feedback and is preparing the final recommendation.
3. CFA continues work on the Student Feedback on Teaching charge, which includes reviewing recommendations that were developed by a previous task force. The charge also directs CFA to recommend questions (or statements) on the student feedback form to assess inclusivity and racial climate in the classroom.
4. CFA review of the SOSA program continues, and we will have a preliminary recommendation ready for testimony in the next few weeks. We will be gathering electronic as well as oral feedback at an upcoming Senate meeting (May 10th, I believe).

* AFT – Nancy Lasher
  + AFT is working on a tweak to MOA 62.
  + They are looking into the Huron Consulting Group assessment.
  + They are working on the voluntary separation group.
  + AFT is waiting to see what the college will do about mandatory vaccinations.
* Health and Safety Restart Task Force – Gerry Altmiller
  + The group has been meeting regularly and has formed 8 splinter groups.
  + There are currently 40 colleges nationwide that are requiring vaccinations for all students for the fall semester.
  + The recommendation from the task force is that TCNJ should require that all residential students and those students visiting campus should be required to have their COVID vaccinations. They have sent this recommendation on to President Foster.
  + A vaccination requirement for faculty and staff will require negotiations with the unions.

**Report and Suggestions from the Faculty Senate Self-Study Committee (Heba Abourahma)**

* Heba discussed the committee’s findings in their review of the Senate Constitution.
* The committee proposes to expand the Senate to include 2 adjunct faculty and 2 clinical faculty. These would be by self-nomination and appointment rather than election.
* The committee wants to emphasize equity and inclusion in the Senate.
* Transparency – the committee believes that the Senate is already fairly transparent, and not much work needs to be done there.
* The committee wishes to find a way to emphasize the power of the Senate.
* Questions and discussion.
* Senate Self-Study Report is attached (Attachment 1).

**Response from Administration to the Faculty Senate Antiracism Memoranda (Matt Bender)**

* In November the Senate approved 2 antiracism memoranda.
* The Executive-Level Committee memorandum has moved forward to Steering.
* The memorandum with the list of action items went to President Foster, who responded with a list of items that are being done.
* Discussion and questions.

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm.

Upcoming Events:

April 30 – 2021 Annual Barbara Meyers Pelson lecture – Monisha Pulimood – “CABPortal: Leveraging Collective Intelligence to Improve Sustainability of Web-Based Portals.”

May 10 (Monday – 10:00-11:30am) – Faculty Senate Meeting

LAW

**Attachment 1**

The Senate-Self Study committee held regular meetings during the AY 2020-2021 to address the assigned charge. At its core, the charge asked the committee to review the Senate Constitution and suggest constitutional revision(s) or amendment(s) to address matter related to: (a) communication among faculty and with the administration, (b) improving inclusivity (particularly of adjunct, part time and clinical faculty), (c) improving transparency and (d) the role of the Senate in campus Governance and facilitating its work within Governance. The charge also requested that we consider ways that make the Senate an anti-racists body.

The Committee revised the constitution to address each of the items as indicated below.

(a) **Communication among the faculty and with the administration:** Language is proposed to clarify the responsibility of the senators to “function as the primary communication channel between the faculty and the Faculty Senate. Senators are expected to report on Senate business to their Schools, as appropriate, and to receive comments from faculty.” (Article II, item 1).

(b) **Improving inclusivity (particularly of adjunct, part time and clinical faculty):** The Committee proposes to expand the membership to include *two* clinical and *two* adjunct faculty. Self-nominating faculty in these categories would be appointed by the Appointment Committee in the same manner faculty are assigned to committees and councils. The Committee’s rationale is that there will likely be a limited number of people interested and a limited number of people voting, which may make it difficult to get votes (Article III, 1a and 1c.) Equity and inclusion language was also added, as needed, in appropriate sections of the constitution.

(c) **Improving transparency:** The Committee discussed the different ways the Senate is already transparent. The Senate meeting agenda is distributed college wide; the meetings are open to the public (already stated in the Constitution); the meeting minutes are posted to the Senate website; the Senate President sends a Senate newsletter each semester that highlights the work of the Senate; resolutions that are passed are posted to the website and emailed to the faculty. The Committee, therefore, concluded that the Faculty Senate is transparent. One potential source of ambiguity could be the appointment of faculty to standing committees and councils by the Appointment Committee. The Committee added language to clarify that the Appointment Committee consists of the SEB and *any interested senator* (Article II, item 2).

(d) **The role of the Senate in campus Governance and facilitating its work within Governance.** The Committee discussed this item at length and decided that it cannot be fully addressed in the Constitution. Language was added to highlight the power of the Senate, but there is additional interest to further discuss the topic with the Senate.

Additional revisions to the Constitution include:

* The Mission Statement includes language that emphasizes the Senate’s leadership role as well as the Senate's strong commitment to equity and inclusion.
* The Senate President’s term was modified to a 3-year term instead of the current 1-year term.
* Article V now accurately reflects the Senate’s bimonthly meeting schedule.

With regards to ensuring that the senate is anti-racist body, language was added in the Mission statement, but also the Committee didn’t think that this fits in the Constitution document.