

Dr. Mark Shipman — President

Dr. Sandy Graham — Past President , ex-officio  
Dr. Anne Albrecht – President-Elect

Dr. Vicky Johnson – Secretary/Treasurer  
Mr. Reggie Hall - Parliamentarian

## **Faculty Senate Minutes**

Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2014

### **PRESENT:**

Mircea Agapie, Annette Albrecht, Kendra Bowen, Peter White (for Jesse Crawford), Art Dearing, Sandy Graham, Reggie Hall, Matthew Hallgarth, Vicky Johnson, Laurie Sharp (for Rebekah Miller-Levy), Russell Pfau (for Allan Nelson), Francine Pratt, Rajani Srinivasan, Randy Roisere, Wendell Sadler, Mark Shipman, Richard Willey, Cathy Wilterding, Mary Winton

### **ABSENT:**

Robert Anderson, Ron Corella, Paula McKeehan, Michael Neerman, Alex Tanter, Mark Weber

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Shipman at 3:05pm

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Dr. Graham moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Dr. Srinivasan seconded. Motion carried.

### **TREASURER’S REPORT:**

Current balance is \$7019.84. Dr. Shipman suggested the possibility of funding a “tea” in conjunction with the dissemination of the survey results later in the spring.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- ▶ Kent Styron has received the letter from Dr. Shipman regarding tobacco use on campus. The response was perfunctory, stating that he would look into it and provide feedback to the senate.
- ▶ The computer replacement process has hit a glitch in that the tablets cannot accommodate two monitors. This will have to be addressed. Dr. Albrecht said that the first round of beta has been named. Forty-six users will begin in February and another 250 in April. Mr. Dearing said that the Windows tablets are exceptional to use, except for use in teaching the necessary software in his class. Dr. Shipman said that those exceptions are being anticipated and will be addressed.

### **SPECIAL GUEST:**

#### **Dr. Linda Jones**

- ▶ Dr. Jones said that she wanted to make the senate aware of a proposal, approved by the Budget Advisory Council, which she intends to present to the President’s Cabinet. The proposal would increase the pay of graduate assistants (those who are teacher of record, lab assistants, and research assistants). We are in the bottom ½ compared to peer institutions. The \$9000 level of current pay has been flat for at least 15 years. If the proposal passes the President’s cabinet, it will go to the Board of Regents in May. The money would come from raising the tuition differential from the current \$80 to \$100 per credit hour, which is still lower than many peer institutions. Graduate enrollment is flat, in part because of lack of competitive salary/scholarship in comparison with other institutions.

## UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES:

### Reports/Committee assignments

- ▶ Academic Assessment (Nelson)  
No report
- ▶ Academic Council (Shipman)  
No report
- ▶ Academic Council Management Team (Shipman)  
No report
- ▶ Academic Standards (Crawford)  
No report
- ▶ Access Equity and Diversity Committee (Pratt)  
No report
- ▶ Budget Advisory Council (Tanter)  
No report
- ▶ Campus Ethics, Compliance, and Enterprise Risk Management (Winton)  
No report
- ▶ CII Advisory Council (Wilterding)  
No report
- ▶ CLASS (Graham)  
No report
- ▶ Curriculum Committee (Hallgarth)  
Dr. Hallgarth said that the THECB rejected moving Cultural Anthropology and Archeology to Language, Philosophy and Culture. The THECB have asked that they be moved to Social and Behavioral Science.
- ▶ Developmental Education Advisory Council (McKeehan)  
No report
- ▶ Employee Benefits Committee (Shipman)  
No report
- ▶ Faculty Handbook Committee (Shipman)  
No report
- ▶ SEMEC (Shipman)  
No report
- ▶ University Calendar Committee (Johnson)  
No report
- ▶ University Discipline Appeals (Bowen)  
No report
- ▶ University Planning Council (Graham)  
Dr. Graham said there is a new chair for this committee – Dr. Heller

## OLD BUSINESS

### Survey rollout

The survey will go out this afternoon or in the morning to all faculty with at least a 75% teaching load. Please do not email the survey to someone else as that will nullify your participation. It will come as a Qualtrix survey. There will be no identifiers. It is yet to be decided how to disseminate the findings.

### Shared governance

Faculty members have shared concerns about non-search administrative positions (in light of the newest) with regard to shared governance. Dr. Shipman asked whether an open faculty meeting should be called. Informal consensus of the senators was that a meeting after the survey results are available would be better. Dr. Shipman said that other institutions have a strong shared governance stance. Dr. Johnson moved that Dr. Shipman write a

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position of appropriate role of faculty in shared governance to be presented for Faculty Senate review at the next meeting. Ms. Pratt seconded. Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **DegreeWorks**

In the latest upgrade, all course substitutions were dropped and some advisors cannot get a legitimate degree audit, even for students close to graduation. Some faculty members are having to check the degree manually from transcripts to get an accurate audit. The new upgrade was rolled out before it was correct. Mr. Dearing said that 'best practices' would be to run the two systems side by side until you are certain the new one works before a transition takes place. Dr. Albrecht said that because of the turnover in the registrar's office a couple of years ago, not all upgrades were followed. The recent upgrade was therefore a major one and caused more problems. Mr. Hall also said that scribing had been done from the 2012-13 catalog, which was known to contain many errors. Ms. Pratt said that he registrar is meeting with programs to identify errors and correct scribing.

### **Inclement weather policy**

Dr. Shipman conveyed the administration's appreciation to faculty for flexibility and creativity in coping with finals during the recent weather situation. The question has arisen regarding a standing policy for a similar situation in the future. Should we consider a standard protocol? Mr. Dearing said the last instance of inclement weather during finals was in December of 1994. Dr. Shipman said we might want to consider a standard protocol for the future. More communication is necessary, especially for students. Dr. Shipman said he would look into it.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

Ms. Winton moved to adjourn. Mr. Dearing seconded. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.