

FACULTY SENATE MEETING Minutes

March 19, 2019

3-5:00pm

Lib 205

Prepared by: Glauca Silva

Members Present:

	Present		Present		Present
Dilshod Achilov	X	Cathy Gardner		Kathy Miraglia	
Scott Ahrtens		Michael Goodman	X	Kari Mofford	X
Nick Anguelov	X	Karen Gulbrandsen	X	Jose Mora	X
Brian Ayotte		Adam Hausknecht	X	Ziddi Msangi	X
Paul Bacdayan		Shannon Jenkins		Nancy O'Connor	X
Carlos Benavides		Arpita Joardar	X	Aminda O'Hare	
Jerry Blitefield		Shakhnoz Kayumova		Grant O'Rielly	X
Tom Boone		Guarav Khanna		Ricardo Rosa	X
Michelle Bowers	X	Anna Klobucka		Doug Roscoe	
Eric Casero		Hilary Kraus		Frank Scarano	
Cathy Curran		Susan Krumholz		Monika Schuler	X
Rob Darst		Wayne LeBlanc	X	Glauca Silva	X
Ana Dempsey		Elizabeth Lehr		Amit Tandon	
Chris Eisenhart	X	Crystal Lubinsky		Iren Valova	
Gavin Fay		David Manke	X	Stephen Witzig	
Rebecca Flanagan		Chad McGuire		Marni Kellogg	X
Jennifer Fugate	X	Cristina Mehrtens		Molly O'Brien	X

18 GUESTS:

Robert Johnson, Chancellor

Kathy Carter, Interim Dean of CCB

Karen Barnett, Assistant Dean of Nursing

Kimberly Christopher, Dean of Nursing

Raymond Laoulache, Associate Dean of Engineering

Chan Du, Associate Dean of CCB

Tesfay Meressi, Associate Provost of Graduate Studies

Alex Fowler, Associate Provost of Research

David Gingerella, Vice Chancellor of A&F

Robert Andrea, Joanne Zanella-Litke, Ram Bala, Sarah Cosgrove, Elizabeth Hart, David Pedro, Mark Paige, Kenneth Manning, Shannon Finning

FACULTY SENATE MEETING AGENDA

March 19th, 2019, 3:00pm-5:00pm, LIB 205

- Call to Order - 3:00-3:05

- President's Report - 3:05-3:20pm
 - Transition of program approval authority from BOT to DHE
 - Approval process begins and ends at DHE
 - Mike Goodman (MG) raises issue so people are aware of change to ensure new program proposals align with change
 - UMass System Announcement of Online College plans
 - Details are not visible at this point; intercampus faculty council has requested meeting with Meehan
 - Expected Special Faculty Senate meeting with President Meehan
 - April 11, 9am, Woodland Commons—not ideal time, but it's what was available. MG encourages all to be there to ask questions. It's unclear what is going to happen. Last week Univ of Maryland announced large investment in online programs; others are doing the same. UMass may be too late; questions need to be asked.

- Report from the University Curriculum Committee (3:35-4:05pm)
 - Discussion of proposed Honors College with proponents (tentative)
 - UCC has recommended that proposal be approved, with caveats
 - Cathy Gardner (CG)/Brian Ayotte have worked on the proposal for nearly two years. UCC saw most recent proposal; nothing is set in stone yet. Intend to offer Honors students not just a program; "not simply an expansion, but a transformation of their learning". That way faculty could transform their own teaching, which would trickle down to the university as a whole. A college would offer more opportunities such as the one recently offered by the Honors program (a trip during Spring break to enhance learning). It would help first-generation students to enlarge their world views.

- MG: college organization; relationship with current depts? CG: it would need a dean in order to have full speaking voice for our students. Most colleges have an assistant dean or someone who can take care of day-to-day work. Eventually her and Brian's positions would fade out to allow for those positions. Right now, Honors has no say in what happens in other colleges; they need to be able to negotiate with other colleges. MG: all teaching would have to be done by members from other units. CG: yes—800 students may not warrant hiring new faculty (MG points out that some units have fewer students than that). CG: faculty may be released to teach units or during a certain period of time. A college would allow a place in the contract for faculty to teach.
- Nancy O'Connor: if someone is teaching a regular course, how's that course going to be covered? CG: right now, they buy out the course. With a college, there would be a properly set out contract, so depts would know how much money they had to cover a course. MG: sustainability of the model came up at the UCC; it might not be as easy. CG: other universities: hire in a position to teach and work with students, to have activities; but that would be something to work towards.
- Adam Hausknecht: How would a student get into the college? CG: right now, they apply for the program. With a college, they would follow other colleges in the system and raise the amount of credits from 40 to 60 credits, which would be good so that students would be better prepared. AH: can this be from any other college? CG: it would be across the board. The Honors program is seen as a program for ASC, but they want to make it available for any discipline. Right now, we can't offer those courses because there would be more resources.
- Grant O'Rielly: where would resources come from? MG: the premise is that they would attract new students. Joanne: there would be a college fee that contributes to the cost of the program.
- CG: currently we have 350 students. Grant O'Rielly: students don't come because we have an Honors college, but due to our programs and courses. Do we need a college? Maybe we should ensure that we can attract more students before creating new positions. CG: new dean position will not happen until 2021. Grant O'Rielly: how can there be a college without a dean? CG: we are struggling to build a program. The Physics dept has just created an honors track; committed to challenge

students. Grant O’Rielly: couldn’t other programs do the same to show demand and to attract students? Worried about expenditures, which has happened before. CG: the conservative numbers show that the college will be self-sufficient. Grant: if you bring the expected number of students.

- Grant: it seems that the other colleges are subsidizing this college. MG: not if there are new students. The UCC’s main concern is staffing the courses sustainably.
 - David Manke: what’s the hook that the Honors college has that is different from other universities? Chancellor: was presented with the proposal last week. It’s a draw because it gives brighter students a place where they can come together. Each of the colleges will benefit. There’s upside to having support services to best and brighter students; we do it for other students, why not for honors students? We’d be able to recruit students that wouldn’t come here otherwise.
 - Grant: students are coming because of the exciting programs; would like to see in the model what these majors would look like.
 - CG: if we take a great instructor from the dept, how the dept now lose out?
 - David M: on the programmatic side, what would attract students? Amherst has interdisciplinary labs. What are we doing to target pre-me or pre-law students, for example? Do we have a thematic or programmatic theme? Brian Ayotte: we have been trying to emphasize community/research. CG: want to emphasize high-impact learning practices. Core will be undergraduate research. Not many colleges emphasize undergrad research. At this point they can’t be too specific so that they can move with faculty to identify what is needed, such as more focus on STEM courses. The proposal has to be organic and respectful, but worked out at the same time. DM: that makes it difficult to understand what is needed in terms of instruction or in terms of students who may be targeted. CG: now bringing about 100 sts/year; usually BIO is huge, but there are students in other programs/colleges as well.
 - Chris Eisenhart: what would we vote and what is the force of the vote? MG: we would recommend to the Chancellor, who would have discretion.
- Vote on proposed Honors College (tentative)
 - Grant: motion to table vote until approval is distributed; Adam H. seconded. Motion passed.

- Report from the Student Faculty Academic Affairs Committee (3:20-3:35pm)
 - Discussion and vote on recommended change to grade appeal policy (tentative)
 - Dilshod Achilov (DA): generally, timeline for spring and fall semesters are working well, but there are some delays due to possible number of appeals. Recommendation to relax language on deadline for decision, since facilitators may be busy. Also propose to make it clear that if student can't reach facilitator, they can contact dean's office.
 - Specific recommendations: maintain start and end of timeline of process, but allow flexibility; encourage facilitators to distribute cases; if cases are not resolved timely students can contact dean's office; new timeline for winter and summer sessions, keeping in line with fall and spring semesters.
 - Winter and summer: appeal should be submitted no later than the 3rd Monday following the last day of final exams for all winter and summer session classes.
 - Grant: what do you mean by the dean will resolve the grade appeal? DA: the facilitator reaches out to instructor within 2 days of filing of appeal. If there is no resolution and there is evidence for a hearing, the hearing committee makes a decision and the dean implements the decision. The decision is made by a committee.
 - Monika Schuler: is the dean supposed to find the facilitator? DA: that's up to the dean; we don't specify what should be done. MS: implying that the dean has the option of deciding what's going to happen with that grade. DA: that's not the intention. Only looked at whether timeline is working or not; but sometimes students try to reach facilitators and have no response. The implication should be that the dean will facilitate the hearing. MG: sometimes in practice it's hard to get in touch with some of us.
 - DA: Motion to approve recommended changes; Grant seconds; motion passes.
- Discussion of new and continuing business (4:05-4:20pm)
 - Ken Saltman: departmental representation in faculty senate. Currently his dept has no representation in the faculty senate; STEM Ed has two representatives. Proposes exploration or discussion of language in the by-laws regarding representation.
 - Grant: if we went to every dept having a representation in the senate, we would raise a question of large depts not having many representatives.

- MG: one concern: if there has to be a senator from each dept, what happens if a dept doesn't have anyone who is willing to serve?
- Other Business – If needed (4:20-5:00pm)
 - Adjourned at 4:07