Faculty Senate
Minutes
October 5, 2011

Attendance: Senators Alfieri, Brunnhoeffer, Carr, Charles, Emmer, Evans, Fobert, Harvey, Khan, Leuchak, Menton, Moskowitz, Murphy, O’Connell, Procaccini, Roberts, Rossi, Sawoski, Sorger, Speakman, Spritz, Stevens, Tehrani, Topf, Turner, Varano, Woodruff

Absent: Bosco, Donnell, Gentles-Peart, Hollingsworth, Hunter, Nester, Ruocco, Schroth, Tait, Timpson

Guests: Pres. Farish, Assoc. Provost Koritz, Dean Cole, Prof. Van Schepen

Announcement: Pres. Topf requested that faculty who are aware of courses that appear in the catalog without faculty review should forward that information to him.

Approval of minutes (Alfieri, OConnell) Minutes of September 7 are approved without objection.

Minutes of Standing Committees: Receipt of the minutes from the University Life Committee, the Faculty Development Committee, the Curriculum Committee, and the Diversity Committee was acknowledged.

Academic reorganization (Speakman, Tehrani)

Motion as amended: The Faculty Senate recommends that decisions to relocate academic programs, and decisions regarding other academic reorganizations, not be made without review by the Faculty Senate through the Senate Steering Committee.

Discussion focused on recent decisions to relocate programs from one school to the other that have been made without consultation with either of the schools affected, or with the students.

The process outlined in the motion, if approved by the President, would be implemented by the deans and the Provost.

Passed 29-0-0

Motion: Eight-week semesters (Speakman, OConnell): The Faculty Senate expresses its concern that decisions to implement eight-week semesters were made without review by the Faculty Senate and the Senate recommends that proposed changes from the current time frames be subject to Senate review.

Discussion focused on why we don’t review minimester or wintersession courses. Is it the number of content hours that is the concern? Should there be faculty review of these different formats? It is the overlap between these 8-week semesters and the regular 14-week semester that is the issue. Five courses are currently being offered from SJS in the 8-week format.  SJS
faculty were not consulted about this model. What is the impact on teaching load and course reductions? Executive Committee should see an immediate explanation for the 8-week format. Did we vote on this?

Passed 26-0-3

*Motion: Course numbering (Speakman, OConnell)* The Faculty Senate recommends that course numbers for existing courses not be used for new courses.

Discussion focused on the pilot First Year Seminars which are using Core 101-105. The numbers are assigned with no regard for the course content or the catalog description.

Motion carries: 28-0-2

*Motion: (Tehrani, Carr)* The Faculty Senate recommends that in hiring of adjuncts, credentials be reviewed by the relevant department or program, which shall be provided sufficient time for such review. The Senate further recommends that upon majority vote of the department or program, the applicants names shall be forwarded to the school or college dean for inclusion in the adjunct faculty pool for the designated courses. Discussion focused on the extent to which faculty input should occur regarding the review of adjunct applications and the decision to hire particular candidates from the adjunct pool. There was consensus that faculty should be involved in the vetting of applications and the placement of candidates in the applicant pool. The decision to hire resides with the dean, but should be transparent. A senator from SAAHP asked for additional time to consult with her constituents. The motion was moved to be tabled until the next senate meeting so the senators can provide information regarding the process practiced in their corresponding schools/college/departments in regard to approving of adjunct faculty for assignation of courses.

Move to table (Evans, Murphy) passed by show of hands.

*Motion as amended: Election to school/college curriculum committee (Tehrani, Carr):* The Faculty Senate recommends school and college curriculum committees be elected by the relevant departments and programs. The Senate further recommends that committee chairs be elected by majority vote of the elected faculty members on the committee.

*Motion carries: 24-0-3*

*General education report.* A report was distributed by Doug Koritz in keeping with a motion from the Faculty Senate at its September meeting. The Core Committee and the General Education committee met and developed a plan for moving forward with general education reform.
The committees will distribute the reports on the Core, will survey the faculty regarding its preferences for general education learning outcomes and will proceed to align/reform the Core with those outcomes.

Discussion focused on the existing data about the Core (Davis, 2020), whether or not a new assessment needs to be done, how to deal with the large number of adjuncts in the Core, how to tighten up the focus of the core courses, how to get this done in time for NEASC. The last NEASC reviewed found the core to be incoherent, too dependent on adjuncts and not assessed.

What is to be the division of labor between the two committees? Where does the charge originate? Has the gen ed committee completed its work?

Motion: (Hollingsworth, Brunnhoffer) The Faculty Senate charges the General Education committee (created by the Senate last May) with developing a timeline and a set of action items for completing an assessment of the current core program to be presented to the Faculty Senate in November.

Motion carried 12-7-5

Motion: (Stevens, Moskowitz) The Faculty Senate recommends that, in light of the change in policy increasing the number of credits covered by a student’s tuition from 17 to 20. The catalog’s statement on the procedure by which students seek permission to exceed the normal course load be changed to:

Students normally take 5 courses each semester. To be classified as fulltime, undergraduate students must register for at least 12 credits. Students receiving financial aid are expected to complete 12 credits each semester. Students enrolled in more than 5 courses during a regular semester must receive permission from their dean before registering for additional courses. Students may register up to and including 20 credit hours without paying additional tuition. Students may only register for one course during Winter Intersession and MiniMester and two courses during Summer Session. [Changed text in italics]

Discussion focused on the difficulty of counting courses versus credits and on the difficulty this may pose for international students.

The Academic Standards committee with review this and the entire section and come back to the Senate with report and recommendations.

Move to table (Spritz, OConnell) passed without objection

Motion (Sorger, Moskowitz): The Senate requests that the Interim Provost inquire of schools and departments concerning the accuracy and appropriateness of information on their
websites, and further requests that the Interim Provost report to the Senate in writing on the results of the inquiry.

Discussion focused on the fact that departments were not given the opportunity to review content about their programs before it appeared on the new website. For example, the trip to El Salvador has information that is wrong, misleading, inaccurate and dangerous. Students are not doing prenatal screening or testing for dengue fever.

Motion carried 25-0-0

Motion #12 (Leuchak, Tehrani) The Senate requests that the Interim Provost report to the Senate on the timeline for the completion of the launch of the website.

Pres. Farish reported that the website is now built on a platform that is no longer supported, and needs to be transferred as soon as possible. Estimate is six weeks.

Motion is withdrawn.

New Business:

Motion regarding Representation on Senate Committees. (Khan, Sawoski) The Faculty Senate requests that the School of Education send a member to the FSCC.

It was also noted that the CAS curriculum committee does not have a member from the School of Education.

Without objection, the request is made to the School of Education to send a member to the CAS curriculum committee and the FSCC.

Security Cameras: the question was raised regarding the location and purpose of security cameras on campus.

New Business items: it was noted that there is no “new business” section on the agenda.

Advising Center: Sen. Stevens advised the Senate that a significant policy change has been proposed by the Advising Center regarding having undeclared students advised by the center rather than by faculty advisers. The Academic Standards and Policy Committee seeks faculty input on this proposal. The Committee intends to bring it before the Senate in December.

Procedural question: does Senate acknowledgment of receipt of committee minutes constitute Senate approval of committee actions contained in those minutes? Or should the committee actions be presented to the Senate as motions for individual consideration. The senate president stated that any motion on the submitted reports should be provided to the senate president for inclusion in the senate agenda. There were discussions regarding this practice. No resolution of this issue.
Meeting was adjourned at 4:30

Minutes compiles by June Speakman

October 11, 2011