

Faculty Senate Minutes

September 5, 2017

Room 216 DeBartolo

Signed in as Present: Adam Martin, Anna Simon, Ben Heller, Catherine Schlegel, Chao-Shin Liu, Dan Johnson, David Gasperetti, David O'Connor, Eric Sims, Guangjian Zhang, Jeanne Romero-Severson, Jimmy Gurulé, Joe Urbany, John Henry Hobgood, Marsha Stevenson, Mary Frandsen, Matthew Capdevielle, Mei-Chi Shaw, Meng Wang, Molly Walsh, Nasir Ghiaseddin, Natalie Porter, Paul McGinn, Phillip Sloan, Richard Pierce Richard Williams, Samir Younés, Shauna Williams, Sibonay Shewit, Tarek Dika, Tom Stober, Xiaoshan Yang

Not Signed in as Present: Aaron Striegel, Annie Coleman, Ben Radcliff (e-mailed; excused), David Thomas, Marie Halvorsen-Ganepola, Matt Bloom, Randy Kozel, Richard Sheehan (e-mailed; excused), Sergei Rouvimov, Sylwia Ptasinska

Chair Ben Heller (BH) called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

1. Opening prayer

BH offered an opening prayer

2. Minutes of the May 2, 2017 meeting

BH offered up the minutes of last May's meeting for correction/amendment. No amendments offered.

Motion for approval, seconded. Minutes passed, all in favor, no one opposed.

3. Announcements: Welcome New Senators

*The chair acknowledged and welcomed new senators.

*Fr. Jenkins offered and the Senate accepted the idea of making his annual presidential address in front of the faculty Senate, with other faculty invited.

Fr. Jenkins will speak for 45 min at the November faculty senate meeting – He will share some of the topics on which he will be speaking prior to the meeting. The talk will be 6:00 to 7:15 p.m. and Senate business will follow.

4. Committee reports

4.1 Academic Affairs: update

Jeanne Romero-Severson (JRS) discussed classified research at ND. Classified research is currently not being conducted at ND. Several Notre Dame Faculty members (estimated 10) have requested that the University allow such research. Four faculty members came to the committee to speak.

Robert Bernhard, Vice President for Research, put together a task force to evaluate the potential for classified research - the institutional and ethical considerations. Classified research has particular requirements that need consideration: graduate students (international) may not be able to participate, sponsor requirements may prevent publication in academic outlets, and certain project contexts may require heightened attention to evaluation on ethical criteria.

Discussion was held about risks, relationships with funding organizations, restrictions on researcher travel and staff, and other issues,

JRS would like to gather more information from Robert Bernhard's office to evaluate whether this is an issue the faculty senate should evaluate and weigh in on the issue.

4.2 Administrative Affairs

Dan Johnson reported that the administration affairs committee has a number of potential items on its agenda.

4.2.1 Update on decennial review of academic articles, and identifying how these would interact with the previous resolution for SPF's.

4.2.2 The possibility of hosting a roundtable on academic freedom in the spring – an idea which emerged from the retreat. Will be getting a list of names and invitations. Ideas on speakers and engaging moderator encouraged. Looking for 2 external speakers. Having a student-oriented event is the goal.

Budget will need to come from other sources. Examples - Fr. Jenkins and Tom Burish's office

4.2.3 Can we engage a presentation about university practices on revenue and royalty-sharing. Policy has changed over the years, but the procedure has not been elaborated. How are faculty consulted on policy change?

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4.3 Benefits

Nasir Ghiaseddin reported that he met with the ND Human Resources team several times over the summer. Several agenda items:

4.3.1 The benefits committee would like to invite Denise Murphy to a meeting to discuss all benefit changes. Some examples:

4.3.1.1 The dental plan has improved, with a focus on evidence-based dentistry enhancement.

4.2.1.2 Medical plan - dependents up to age 26 can be covered. This will be extended to dental and vision.

4.2.1.3 Vision plan being enhanced. \$120 to \$150 allowance for frames, every year. Dependents up to 26 covered.

4.2.1.4 EyeMed – providing some coverage of hearing aids

4.2.1.5 No major changes in life and medical insurance.

4.2.1.6 Slight increase in overall cost, shared by the university. \$3 to \$12 / month

4.2.1.7 Adoption benefit. was \$3000 / year / child; changed to \$6000 / year / child

4.2.1.8 For staff, moving from pension to 403b for all staff members.

Additional question: are there changes in premiums for emeriti?

4.4 Student Affairs

David Gasperetti (DG) reported a list of questions under consideration by the committee:

4.4.1 Overall welfare and intellectual freedom of students on campus – especially Chinese students (wondering whether this is an issue)

4.4.2 Justice department ruling on DACA. Believe there are about 80 students on campus. Discussion ensued around several points.

- a. Relevant to consider the resolution passed by the faculty senate last spring, not supported by the president (he indicated he will follow the law, whatever it is)
- b. The student senate has passed a similar resolution.
- c. The faculty senate might author a statement encouraging congress to act to protect and not punish the students within the 6 months they have to act.
- d. President Jenkins recently made a statement supporting DACA in the press

- e. An option is to encourage the university to provide legal assistance for the students.
- i. The faculty senate executive committee could act quickly on a resolution -
- j. Objection raised about the executive committee speaking on behalf of the senate – and via e-mail. Important that there be deliberation and approval by the larger senate.
- k. The value of a separate faculty senate statement vs. an endorsement of Fr. Jenkins’ statement was discussed.
- n. DG supports the idea of Exec Committee drafting language in an open process.

4.4.3 Issues raised by students

- a. Mental health resources statement – students may not be generally aware of the resources available.
- b. Exams after thanksgiving
- c. Transparency in study abroad – looks like cost is the same across programs, but perks vary. Would be helpful to have published acceptance rates by program, insight into whether there is financial assistance for summer programs?

4.4.4. Moreau first year experience. There is a need for more information.

4.4.5. Student safety during an active/extreme event. We’ve never had a rehearsal for such an event (vs., say primary schools).

5. New Business

5.1 Core Curriculum Governance (documents attached to BH’s earlier e-mail with meeting agenda).

Visitor: Michael Hildreth (Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, College of Science; Professor of Physics)

Professor Hildreth is leading the transition committee, which is doing all the technocratic and background work to support the roll out of the new core curriculum that work includes:

5.1 Changing the governance structure which may require changing the academic articles

5.2 Process:

- 5.2.1 Working with academic affairs - plans are approved
- 5.2.2 Now presenting to the full Faculty Senate.
- 5.2.3 Following that, the report goes through academic council.
- 5.2.4 Then the new committee can be put in place later in the fall.

5.3 Report: **Core Curriculum Committee Structure, Duties, and Policies**

Most of the areas of the new core curriculum are similar to the old, the proposal is to grandfather them into the new.

5.4 Professor Hildreth described the new governance structure, the proviso that each subcommittee chair must have primary scholarly focus in a “way of knowing,” the 11 ways of knowing, College-by-college election of nominees for chairs, election mechanism, nominations left up to each college, leading to subcommittees with the task of approving / disapproving proposed courses for the core curriculum

5.5 Discussion followed around:

5.5.1 Central role / high impact on the Philosophy Department

*subcommittees would need to estimate changes in demand

5.5.2 The need for common standards in demonstrating how courses fit learning goals

5.5.3 Quality control for courses / metrics for assessment

5.5.4 Review of courses grand-fathered in

5.5.5 How courses would be counted

5.5.6 Whether teaching would be limited to T&R faculty (no)

Overall, positive support was expressed for the committee’s report.

6. Adjournment

No other new business, meeting adjournment moved, seconded, and approved.