

**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**6:30pm, October 6, 2020**  
**Via Zoom Conferencing**

**Senators Attending | 44 | quorum**

Abby Wolfe, Aldo Tagliabue, Amanda McKendree, Anna Geltzer, Anna Simon, Ashley Bohrer, Catherine Bolten, CJ (Claire Taylor) Jones, Cody Brockelmeyer, Daniel Johnson, David Richter, David Thomas, Doug Hall, Giles Duffield, John Deak, John Lubker, John Michel, Katie Bugyis, Katrina Barron, Mary Frandsen, Meng Wang, Molly Walsh, Nathan Rose, Panos Antsaklis, Paulinus Odozor, Paul McGinn, Phil Sloan, Randal Harrison, Richard Williams, Roger Alford, Ronald Metoyer, Ruediger Bachmann, Jeffrey Burks, Samir Younes, Sarah Galbenski, Sebastian Rosato, Shahriar Mobashery, Shauna Williams, Sophie Shive, Susan Blum, Thomas Nowak, Thomas Stober, Timothy Bays, Vanesa Miseres, Xiaoshan Yang

**Guests**

Marie Lynn Miranda, Bridgette Befort, Michael Desch, Christopher Ball, Jason Ruiz, Jack Stripling, Tom Mustillo, Barbara (Pete) Pietraszewski, C. Kenneth Cole, Alex Perkins, David Hachen, Jian-Ren Lim

**1. Opening prayer**

Chair Tom Stober welcomed the Senators and delivered the opening prayer. This evening's prayer was provided by Paul McGinn.

**2. Approval of minutes from meeting of September 1, 2020**

No additions or corrections. Minutes were approved.

**3. Report of the Chair of the Faculty Senate (written report distributed in advance)**

Chair reported that the Senate will continue to meet over Zoom for the rest of the academic year. Due to the timing of election day, the November meeting will be moved to the second Tuesday, November 10, 2020. Following this there will be one regular Senate meeting on December 1, 2020, but no meeting in January.

**4. Presentation by the Provost Marie Lynn Miranda**

Provost Miranda had asked to speak briefly to the Senate to offer an update on the status of the contribution-matching program (403B). Provost Miranda assured the faculty that, while the COVID pandemic continues to present novel challenges, and budget approval by the Board will not take place until January, none of the fiscal scenarios currently being explored by the University involve cutting the 403B. Nor, in the interterm period through January, will any staff be furloughed. To further support staff, 6 holidays have been added for the Christmas holidays to thank staff and faculty for their hard work and assist with this difficult period.

The provost noted that the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs committees were asked to work together to come up with creative ideas for reducing student stress for

the Spring 2021 term. The committee chairs plan to meet soon about this, and plan to provide input by the end of the month. The provost also noted that the administration was working with professors to stagger exams in ways that lighten the emotional load for students during a compacted semester. Additionally, many instructors have also proposed solutions such as variations on a de facto spring break to lighten students' load. The administration is hoping to hear more creative suggestions for improving students' mental health.

Additionally, responding to a chat message from Randy Harrison, Provost Miranda noted the administration was willing to commit to working on a budget that would ideally allow for raises to those recently promoted.

## **5. Reports of the standing committees of the Faculty Senate**

### *Academic Affairs (Anna Geltzer, chair)*

The committee is working on implementation of the new teaching evaluation form. The committee will review the 2017 report from the ad hoc Committee on The Evaluation on Teaching and invite Maura Ryan to address the committee on the status of the implementation of the form described in the recommendation. The committee also invites interested Faculty Senate representatives to help with an initiative to think about online teaching platforms.

### *Administrative Affairs (Dan Johnson, chair)*

The committee took up two matters in their meeting. First, the committee last month had recommended that the Faculty Senate have access to legal counsel to advise it on legal ramifications regarding the proposed changes to Title IX violation procedures. The Senate has been able to obtain the services of Kirkland & Ellis who will work on a pro bono basis. Members of the senate are instructed to direct Title IX-related questions to Roger Alford, who will liaise with the firm. The committee also discussed a proposal from the Faculty Affairs Committee of Academic Council last semester about the possibility of establishing a committee on committees. Such a committee might track and comment usefully on issues of committee diversity, membership makeup, dormant committees, avoiding the proliferation of appointed ad hoc committees with elected standing committees, and so forth. To obtain further insight, the committee will invite Notre Dame affiliates to speak with them.

### *Benefits, Budget, and Infrastructure (Paul McGinn, chair)*

The committee met with HR and reviewed the healthcare plan for AY 2021. Reminder: The HRA will not be offered this AY--only the PPO and HSA. Costs will rise about \$10 per month, regardless of your plan. The Health Fair will happen virtually this year from October 20th through November 6th. October 20th and 21st, there will be live chat with vendors. If faculty have questions about plans/ benefits, they may contact them directly on these days. Reminder: Flu shots are mandatory. You may obtain these at the Wellness Center when they are in stock or go through your doctor or CVS or Walgreens. The latter two pharmacies are covered under ND health plans. Finally, the committee is pushing for financially-responsible investing for the 403B plan. The

committee is investigating bringing a representative from Aeon (the advisor to the 403B investment committee) to present to the Faculty Senate so we can ask that individual questions about investment strategy and choices.

#### *Student Affairs (Molly Walsh, chair)*

The committee began with a presentation from Heather Ryan, the Director of Community Standards from the Office of Community Standards, on SpeakUpND, an online reporting tool available to students, faculty, and staff. The committee also discussed two proposed resolutions regarding students and online learning. Discussion was postponed in order to gather more information. The committee will investigate talking to a representative from Sara Bea for clarification.

Lastly, the chair invited undergraduate students Abby Wolfe, Sarah Galbenski, and graduate student Bridgette Befort (appearing in place of Ryan Karl as the representative of the Graduate Student Union) to speak to the Senate regarding two resolutions presented to the Student Senate on October 1, 2020. The first resolution was in support of upholding the preponderance of evidence standard for all Title IX cases. This was passed by the Student Senate unanimously. There was also a student petition with 213 signatures (200 are required for consideration) which raised a motion to pass a resolution for Father Jenkins' resignation. The motion was voted down by a vote of 36 to 2.

#### **6. Unfinished Business**

None Reported.

#### **7. New Business**

Katrina Barron motioned that the Faculty Senate make a vote of no confidence in President Jenkins ([the text of the motion is here](#)). Second: Catherine Bolten

Timothy Bays motioned to postpone, stating that the senators had less than 24 hours notice. Second: Philip Sloan

There was significant discussion, with senators making essentially two points--the desire for more discussion on the reasons behind the motion; and a desire to offer those accused the right to defend themselves.

The motion to postpone Katrina Barron's motion was passed 21 - 20.

Fr. Paulinus Odozor motions that the Faculty Senate send a note of thanks and praise to Father Jenkins and his administration for their handling to date of the COVID pandemic ([the text of the motion is here](#)). Second: Roger Alford

Timothy Bays motioned to postpone Fr. Odozor's motion, arguing that the senators had too little time to discuss with constituents, and because the previous motion by Katrina Barron should take precedence. Second: John Deak

There was significant discussion, with senators making the points that discussion would allow them to inform their constituents more fully.

The motion to postpone Fr. Odozor's motion was passed 38 - 2.

Randy Harrison moved to open the Senate to a general discussion of the motions of Katrina Barron and Fr. Paulinus Odozor.

Second: Ruediger Bachmann

The motion was passed 33-6.

C.J. Jones moved to continue the meeting in Executive Session.

Second: Katrina Barron

The motion was passed 37 - 2.

Randy Harrison motioned to include Jason Ruiz as a guest to the Executive Session.

Second: Katrina Barron

The motion passed with a clear majority, and the meeting moved into the Executive Session.

## **8. Adjournment**

Randy Harrison made a motion to adjourn.

Second: CJ Jones

Meeting Adjourned at 8:47 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Amanda G. McKendree, Ph.D.  
Randal Sean Harrison, Ph.D.