



Faculty Senate Meeting Notes
October 13, 2021

I. Call to order

Larry Smith called to order the regular meeting of the Snow College Faculty Senate at 3:30 p.m. on, October 13, 2021. The Senate met face-to-face in the Noyes, Academy Room with Zoom video conferencing available.

II. Roll Call

Senate Members: Senate President Larry Smith, Senate Vice President Jed Rasmussen, Matt Gowans, Jacob Thomas, Weston Jamison, Alan Christensen, Dennis Schugk, Sandra Cox, Adam Burningham, Sheryl Bodrero for Faculty Association President Garth Sorenson, Student Representative Preston Moon, Senate Parliamentarian Erick Faatz

Others: Assistant Provost Kade Parry, Curriculum Committee Chairperson Cozette Roberts, Assistant Provost Lindsay Chaney, Curriculum Committee Members English Brooks, Adam Teichart, and Lorie Hughes.

III. Minutes approved for September 22, 2021. Motion made by D. Schugk, second by W. Jamison and unanimous vote of approval.

IV. Opening and Informational Items

A. Welcome from L. Smith especially of Curriculum Committee members.

B. L. Smith reported on a meeting with President Cook.

1. There were 800 respondents for the Covid Survey. Respondents who are vaccinated may have self-selected to respond at a higher percentage than those who are not vaccinated. Forty percent of respondents currently not vaccinated said that they will not be vaccinated.

C. L. Smith, J. Rasmussen, and E. Faatz reported on a UCFSL (Utah Council of Faculty Senate Leadership) Meeting from October 8, 2021.

1. The group asked about faculty representation on retirement and benefits committees at the various institutions. Variable from institution to institution.

2. USHE faculty representation is only through the Industry Advisory Committee to USHE.

3. Recruiting and retaining diverse faculty at Utah institutions of higher education is a problem. One option discussed is creating of a spousal hiring policy for higher education in Utah.

4. The UCFSL drafted a common letter regarding governance compensation and distributed it to institutional CAOs. According to Board of Regents policy there should be some level of compensation for senate leaders.

5. Covid vaccination and mask policies in higher education was discussed. There are many different approaches and policies at the various institutions.

6. UCFSL invites anyone interested in helping draft a letter regarding Utah's response to "Critical Race Theory" in higher education to become involved. Contact your senate leadership if you are interested.

7. Concerns about how student evaluations are used in advancement and tenure decisions is a concern especially at UVU.

V. Good News Committee and SEM Reports

A. A & T Committee: M. Gowans indicated that the committee is working very well. They have made it through most, if not all, tenure reviews. Encourage students to do student evaluations so that there is significant information for A&T reviews. Several recommendations for student incentives were made.

B. Curriculum Committee: See agenda item report below.

C. Teaching and Learning Center Committee: A. Christensen reported that the committee is preparing for the Pedagogy and Practice Conference scheduled for October 16, 2021.

D. Professional Track Committee: No report.

E. Global Engagement Committee: W. Jamison indicated that the committee will meet next week to discuss combining with Inclusion and Diversity. The Fulbright application is nearly complete.

F. Honors Committee: J. Thomas reported that program members traveled to Cedar City, UT to see Pirates of Penzance and eat pizza.

G. Library Committee: J. Rasmussen reported that Diane Ogden was selected as chairperson for the committee. There has been more development of online library training for students. Send information regarding your favorite book to the library for a display. Let the library know about any instructional support needs.

H. Service Learning Committee: D. Schugk indicated that Faculty Fellows applications are due by November 1, 2021. There is a \$500.00 stipend with an awarded fellowship.

I. Faculty Association: Sheryl Bodrero indicated that an Association meeting was held Friday, October 8, 2021. Please report any faculty concerns to Association officers.

J. Adjunct Information: A. Burningham reported that adjuncts are doing quite well. He has had some interesting reports about student adjustments to face-to-face classes without restrictive Covid protocols in place.

K. Student Information: P. Moon indicated that the semester is going well for most students. There was a strong tribute for Mafatini Taimane-Laititi Mafatini following his accidental death.

L. Ad Hoc/Other: N/A

VI. Senate Business

A. Curriculum Committee Senate Visit

1. L. Smith thanked committee members for their service and asked how the Faculty Senate can be helpful.
2. C. Roberts reported that they have a very strong committee and that meetings are well attended.
3. Argos has been one of the biggest challenges but that it is working well recently. L. Chaney said that they are sending an RFP for a new system to replace Argos.
4. There have been challenges getting people to update syllabi in a timely manner which creates "emergency" situations. Remind division members to keep up with deadlines. Staggering syllabus review dates can help.
5. The committee is working with Student Services on class wait lists, adding and dropping classes, and the new Administrative Drop system.
6. The Academic Integrity Policy is on hold while hiring new legal council is finished.
7. This is a very important committee since the faculty "owns the curriculum." Solid participation is important to shared governance.
8. The web site structure is solid. No recent agenda postings. Because meetings are open, minutes should be posted too.
9. More might need to be done about training students regarding academic expectations. Various ideas were put forward including videos for students and faculty members, new faculty training, and Canvas information in commons.

B. Reduction in Workforce and Financial Exigencies Policy 319 will be on a future meeting agenda. E. Faatz will be more proactive about contacting Brent Baxter ahead of time.

C. Academic Freedom Now, “No ‘Social Justice’ in the Classroom: Statehouses Renew Scrutiny of Speech at Public Colleges” Discussion

1. “Critical Race Theory” might be a “bugaboo” for political reactions to a strawman argument. One should not misrepresent the other side creating a logical fallacy. Rather, an open conversation is important. Humans sometimes have a difficult time really listening. Silencing of some groups has become a problem. Small sections of society rising up and silencing others may create problems for others being allowed to freely express themselves.

D. Role of the Global Engagement Committee Continued Discussion

1. Tabled until after the next GEAC committee meeting.

E. Faculty Senate Bylaws Revisions/Updates

1. E. Faatz mentioned a draft of bylaws in which minimal changes were made and attached to this meeting invitation to Senate members. (He will continue to draft revisions as time allows.) Senate members could use this as a template to draft recommended bylaws revisions in the following areas and others: Committee Changes, College Council Representative Selection Process, Senate President and Vice President Selection Process and Senate/Provost Budget Relationship.

President Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:03 p.m.

The next regular meeting 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 27, 2021.

Minutes submitted by Erick Faatz
Revised 10/31/2021
Final minutes approved 11/10/2021