Faculty Senate Minutes

Monday, March 09, 2020

Present: Melissa Anderson, Jeremy Carlton, Prakash Chenjeri, Paul Condon, Brian Fedorek, Paul French, Andrew Gay, Marianne Golding, Justin Harmon, Kristin Hocevar, Cynthia Hutton, Marc Koyack, Laurie Kurutz, Matt Moreali, Jesse Longhurst, Tiffany Morey, Anna Oliveri, Mark Siders, Ellen Siem, Chad Thatcher, Kemble Yates

Absent:Michael Stanfill, Dennis Jablonski, Aprille Phillips

Guests:Lee Ayers, Sherry Ettlich, Alena Ruggerio, Jody Waters, Greg Perkinson

Meeting called to order at: 4:00 pm.

1. Approval of Minutes from 2/24
   * Kurutz moved to approve the minutes; Fedorek seconded. Carlton, Chenjeri, Condon, Fedorek, French, Golding, Harmon, Hocevar, Hutton, Koyack, Kurutz, Longhurst, Moreali, Morey, Oliveri, Siders, Siem, Thatcher, and Yates voted in favor. None opposed. Gay and Anderson abstained. **Motion passed.**
2. President’s Report – Linda Schott
   * The president missed the forum last week; she was sick with a cold
   * The president wanted to provide an update on incidents of racism: she is trying to meet with student groups; meeting with NASU on Thursday, and will be going to another meeting today. She will listen to their concerns and will be developing a strategy. We want to become more adept and continue with cultural competency efforts. It needs a bit of thought to do it effectively
   * Coronavirus update: Greg Perkinson will have a lot of information; it is moving quickly and we are working hard to come up with guidance, recommendations on travel; SOU has a new website with information on it
   * Governor said schools should not close unless we are a point to not be able to manage; we are taking that as guidance and to try to stay open
   * We are asking faculty to help with students; help them understand the science, there is some not good info out there; let’s get them through their finals; we are working on what we’ll say about Spring Break etc.
   * 3rd big topic; we continue to work on equitable funding; there is another meeting of the work group this Friday; there is a meeting of TRU presidents next Tuesday, trying to form a coalition; we’ve got our eye on all these things happening
   * Thatcher mentioned the stock market and the effect on education of recessions
   * The president said we’re in uncharted waters; sometimes we can only see a couple of days ahead; everybody is staffed thin, dealing with many things at once
   * Gay asked if there was any discussion of what state might do for us if we have to go online, close, lose tuition. The president said she feels like the state would step in but haven’t heard anything. Some universities have insurance but she’s not sure if we have any that would cover this. Our goal would be to try to keep students moving forward.
   * Golding mentioned that we don’t know what to say to faculty planning to teach abroad; she was told that there are travel recommendations coming out, and the administration is working with international programs
   * Thatcher noted that this is a unique opportunity to deal with uncertainty, since it relates to the campus theme
   * The president mentioned some of the cleaning that has been put in place
3. Provost’s Report – Sue Walsh
   * Walsh stated that she agrees with the president. She sent out info on Friday with the info she had; Perkinson will be sending out travel info, we are trying to stick with what the Governor and HECC have recommended. She doesn’t have an update beyond what she said Friday, but is happy to take individual questions
   * Hutton asked if institutions could get testing kits; Walsh thinks Anna d’Amato is looking into it but doesn’t know the answer yet. D’Amato has connections at other institutions and will find out what is possible.
   * Gay said he had meeting with Clay Austin, Tom Battaglia, and Hart Wilson about moving online; certain courses can’t really go online; he wondered if anyone had grand ideas for that situation?
   * Walsh said that Clay, Hart, and Tom have been putting together resources so we could immediately go to Hart or Clay if a particular course needs help, or if the institution needed to go online. They are ready for whatever we need. They can help faculty work with individual students to accommodate self-quarantine etc. A Ballroom Dance instructor contacted Walsh today and they worked out alternatives. For now, it is a case by case basis figuring out alternatives.
   * If you are in a class room with enough space, encourage people to spread out; or if you are cramped, we might be able to find you another space
   * Longhurst said she sent out an encouraging email to her students and got good feedback; she will put it in the drive
4. Advisory Council Report – Chair-Elect Kemble Yates
   * AC met to talk about a lot of things, some on agenda but not all
   * The FPAR and Post-Tenure Review task forces needed to talk to each other and they did on Friday; both groups intend to put something forward early in spring
   * Instructor MOU task force is putting something together for Constitution Committee
   * Student Evaluation task force is also close to presenting something; AC had an interesting discussion about it. It will be coming to Senate at some point in the future.
   * There is a small bylaws problem--5.212 has some language that needs to be fixed to explain how and when annual evaluations need to be included in P&T documents. Discussion ensued about where it came from and how it needs to be adjusted. According to Sherry Ettlich, the intention was that in some cases the annual evaluation would be added.The constitution committee will look at it.
   * FPC Elections are done; chair elections are almost done. Any announcements that have not yet been made will come soon
   * Koyack will be away next term, and Oliveri is going to sub for him.
   * Elections--We will be fixing Senate elections with shorter terms in a few specific cases
5. New Undergraduate Curriculum (Vote)
   * Most of this was already reviewed, but Comm 218 was inadvertently left out; it was already approved for University Studies but a punctuation question had led to it being left out of the Curriculum package. The two week-rule could be waived so the whole package could be voted on today, though.
   * Oliveri moved to waive the 2-week rule, Hocevar seconded. Anderson, Carlton, Chenjeri, condon, Fedorek, French, Golding, Harmon, Hocevar, Hutton, Koyack, Kurutz, Longhurst, Moreali, Morey, Oliveri, Siders, Siem, Thatcher, and Yates voted in favor. None opposed. Gay abstained. **Motion passed.**
   * Yates moved to approve the whole package, Kurutz seconded. Anderson, Carlton, Chenjeri, Condon, Fedorek, French, Golding, Harmon, Hocevar, Hutton, Koyack, Kurutz, Longhurst, Moreali, Morey, Oliveri, Siders, Siem, Thatcher, and Yates voted in favor. None opposed. Gay abstained. **Motion passed.** There is a little typo in the CCJ course description that will be fixed.
6. Carpenter I Grants (2-week rule waiver requested)
   * Kurutz moved to waive 2-week rule; Fedorek seconded. Anderson, Carlton, Chenjeri, Condon, Fedorek, French, Golding, Harmon, Hocevar, Hutton, Koyack, Kurutz, Longhurst, Moreali, Morey, Oliveri, Siders, Siem, Thatcher, and Yates voted in favor. None opposed. Gay abstained. **Motion passed.**
   * Kurutz moved to approve Carpener I grants; Fedored seconded.
   * Yates asked how much was requested and how much approved. Hocevar answered that 8/12 requests were approved; a total of $26,000 was requested and $12,000 was awarded. Most were given 50-60% of what they asked for.
   * Morey explained the process a bit; applications are scored and then scoring is discussed before amounts are decided. She said people could ask people on the committee if they have questions. She advised applicants to follow instructions and be detailed. Hocevar noted that the project listed for Jackie Strenio on the sheet was incorrect due to a typo.
   * Anderson, Carlton, Chenjeri, Condon, Fedorek, French, Golding, Harmon, Hocevar, Hutton, Koyack, Kurutz, Moreali, Morey, Oliveri, Siders, Siem, Thatcher, and Yates voted in favor. None opposed. Gay and Longhurst abstained. **Motion passed.**
7. New Graduate Curriculum (Discussion)
   * There were no questions about the new graduate curriculum.
   * Gay said that he may call for an early vote when the Senate has its special meeting next week.
8. New Academic Policies (Discussion)
   * Waters explained the history of these policy changes. Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) has been in effect for INL; we have since observed how it worked and are going to roll it out for everyone. This is an opportunity to make life, work, military experience etc. recognized in terms of college credit. Programs can look at learning outcomes for courses and figure out how students could demonstrate them without taking the course.
   * We are making a blanket policy for everyone instead of just INL, and are adjusting ways it was applied in the past; we are making it possible to get CPL upper division credit; department level decisions can be made but we want the policy to be flexible
   * Programs may want to have discussions about what they offer that they might be able to assess with a CPL portfolio; it is not a requirement, but Waters encouraged faculty to think about what might be possible in their programs
   * CATL will do some professional development around this, we are hoping to be more responsive to students who are interested in this
   * Fedorek asked how it works; do they get a lump of credit? Waters explained that it has to be associated with a class. They have learning outcomes that could be assessed in portfolio, with a demonstration
   * Siders asked how it shows up on the transcript; Waters explained that it would show up as a course but with a notation on the transcript. We do not know how other institutions do it
   * Siders asked how many we’ve done for INL. Waters thought it might be 35-45 portfolios and assessments granted; but the completion/success rate is lower.
   * Gay asked if the program gets to decide what the portfolio looks like. Waters added that $150 goes to the faculty member who has to assess the portfolio. The student pays a fee per credit hour also.
   * Fedorek asked about the max amount of credit they can get this way. Waters said 25% of the 180 credits needed to graduate is the max.
   * Waters said that the university has been talking about it for some time; it feels like a good complement to other things we are doing. Waters asked senators to go back and talk to your faculty about it.
   * Gay asked if Senate approves it, when it would go into action; Waters said that she believes it goes into effect as soon as the president signs it.
   * Yates noted that it seemed like there were a few issues. First, does a program even want to do it; and then if we are going to promote it or just let it come to us. Waters said that programs could wait, except that courses need to be identified. It’s a conversation to have with students; what courses are the target for those inquiries.
   * Yates clarified that programs could do nothing and wait for students to come to programs with proposals, or they could sit down ahead of time and figure out which ones would work. Waters confirmed this.
   * Golding said that maybe CPL opportunities could be used in recruiting.
   * Carlton noted that CPL has helped veterans at other institutions
   * Siders asked if this was for graduate students too, such as MBA students who already have a CPA. Waters said that was not yet a possibility, but she would like to talk about it. Longhurst said that she would like to be in that conversation also.
   * Gay asked if there are rubrics to see how this has been done, and Waters said that there were. Moneeka Settles [from INL] is one of our best resources for this. We are hoping to get faculty, chairs, and directors to talk about opportunities for CPL in the next couple weeks.
9. SOU’s COVID-19 Preparation & Response - Greg Perkinson
   * A week ago today Linda activated the Incident Response Team
   * We bring in functional experts from around the campus and organize a FEMA-style incident response
   * We’ve been meeting daily working behind the scenes
   * Today the team started a more aggressive push for getting info out
   * Friday Walsh put out info; today travel info was put out, it is on insidesou.edu, and also on sou.edu
   * This is fluid; there is a lot going on; there are two presumptive cases in Jackson County
   * The team changed look of the website a lot from original version to hold content more easily
   * Perkinson gave an example of how the team is handling issues; he talked to Brook Colley about a Queer Indigenous event, they want to carry on but mitigate risk
   * We are relearning habits--social distancing, leg taps, etc.
   * There is a ton of info out there; we are hanging updates on the website and there are FAQs
   * The team made a form for parents to connect;
   * Carlton noted that he is going to Guanajuato, and wondered if he should be worried. Walsh said that Mexico is not a level 3 country; for the university, we are maintaining guidelines consistent with the governor’s message and CDC. It is a different conversation if you are personally worried; we are taking a stand only on 4 level 3 countries at this point
   * Little things like where you were routed through matters; Sheila Clough is in quarantine because she was routed through Japan during a trip
   * Golding asked a question about summer language instructors; what if France becomes a Level 3? Walsh said that there are different circumstances and they would work with business services. Walsh asked everyone to read the policy and to talk to her if it doesn’t address a question they have.
   * Waters noted that when she met with the SLI last week they talked about this and said she would follow up with Golding
   * Fedorek asked about “essential” and “nonessential” travel; he asked if he has to get directors’ approval for travel to conferences. Walsh asked for a sign-off from the director. Walsh said we are all reacting to the domino effect.
   * Fedorek noted that the information is changing; Walsh agreed that it was fluid and said that we would figure it out. It’s going to affect Academic Affairs the most; we’ll be talking about issues that affect individuals.
   * Perkinson noted that he has tickets to Spain; he wants to go but doesn’t know what is going to happen. He will be monitoring it.
   * Walsh noted that a director was planning to go to Barcelona for a conference planning session, but it got canceled. She asked for patience because the situation is fluid.
   * Gay asked what the process for decisions is. Perkinson said that the team meets every day at 7:30 and they talk about changes in status and any special focus on next actions. Planning and preparedness has been the focus so far; the next piece is mitigation and response. There is no vaccine; the treatment is to lock yourself in a room, which is underwhelming.
   * The team checks in again at 3 to see if things have changed; they talk about how to communicate; there is a lot of logistics around cleaning; hopefully this will be culminating in good actions.
   * French asked how this will affect affiliated organizations like the Repertory Singers; Perkinson said that when the school sets policy that will de facto go down the line.
   * French mentioned a concert in May, and Walsh responded that May seems like a long way away; if they are domestic partners, go ahead and plan on this going forward, for now. People coming from Italy have already been canceled; for now, plan on going forward, but we will pivot if we need to and deal with it if it happens; hour by hour this is a fluid situation. Don’t stop planning, we don’t have any reason to think we can’t have that concert.
   * Golding asked if we are still OK to gather more than 100 people; Walsh said that for right now it would be good to reach out to someone like Perkinson did with Brook Colley. If it is later, we will have to see.
   * Gay said that the governor has given her guidance; she has said not to close schools; he has seen a lot of armchair epidemiology; what would trigger changes in Oregon? Perkinson said that now we have two travel-related cases in Jackson County; if it changes and it is community spread, with students and faculty with positive cases, we would talk about closing to disinfect. It would be something that would show a significant escalation.
   * Waters said that she was following the same story referred to by others in the Chronicle; 25/780 colleges have closed/gone online; either they have some active presence, international students, etc. Walsh noted that public and private institutions make decisions differently; she is happy we have 6 other institutions to talk about this with, about how to support our students
   * Perkinson said that the public health community recommendations will also affect our decision; if a local public health community is in dialogue with us and wants us to close; we will respect the regional nature of what we do. Walsh noted that there are low SES families that do not want K-12 schools closed
   * Oliveri wondered about conversations about people staying here for spring break; Walsh responded that the dorms are open, the Hawk is open
   * Chenjeri asked if Jackson County has test kits; Waters said that it did, but there is a protocol for access to them.
   * Siem asked if students have to pay to stay in the dorms/use the Hawk. Perkinson said they just use their regular meal plan in the Hawk unless they don’t live in the dorms.
10. ASSOU President Report--Britney Sharp
    * Sharp spoke with some faculty about the events at the dorms; Britney is a resource and wants to encourage faculty to reach out to her. The information in some of the articles is missing some facts
    * The meetings with the MRC were only step 1; she knows students are coming to faculty upset and she would like faculty to help ASSOU/MRC to clear this up; it is being relayed that they aren’t doing anything which is not accurate
    * The space in SU being moved was another issue; that was a decision made by students; it can be moved back by students
    * It is hurting the campus that a story is going around saying student government, administration, MRC isn’t supporting students; identity groups feel divided, pitted against each other; she would love it if faculty reached out
    * Faculty told her they felt blindsided; but student government was listening to the student victim who didn’t want the incident publicized
    * Faculty don’t know what student government has control over, what they do, and if there are questions about what happened in the dorm; she wants faculty to come to her; It’s not easy to know who did something like this. She is concerned about freshman returning after something like this, and about the Preview Day that happened right after the incident
    * Siem asked what message she could give freshman that might change their minds about not returning; Sharp said that they had a meeting about community values; they wanted to invite them to the MRC next; they have been going into USems; they have been talking about what stands between us; trying to build connection, making students feel more welcome;
    * What’s next: Suresh Appavoo, Marvin Woodard, etc. are waiting, giving it a moment to decompress, before deciding what to do next
    * The students are more eager to get connection now, but info keeps going out putting fuel on the fire
    * Faculty can contact Sharp at [assoupresident@sou.edu](mailto:assoupresident@sou.edu)
    * The resources Centers, Siskiyou, etc that had been defunded were refunded; ASSOU pulled money out of the Oregon Student Association; it hasn't served us well, there has been a lot of drama, in Salem all of our legislative priorities were not voted on by students. Some worried this would affect students who wanted to go to a conference for students of color, but there are other conferences for students of color, or we could host our own, there are other options. The appeal for OSA will be Thursday
11. Resolution Showing Support for Deborah Rosenberg’s continued service on the Board of Trustees
    * Golding moved to approve the resolution; Oliveri seconded. Anderson, Carlton, Chenjeri, Condon, Fedorek, French, Golding, Harmon, Hocevar, Hutton, Koyack, Kurutz, Longhurst, Moreali, Morey, Oliveri, Siders, Siem, Thatcher, and Yates voted in favor. None opposed. Gay abstained. **Motion passed.**
12. Announcements/New Business
    * Oliveri noted that the Chemistry Club was hosting a game night on Friday
    * Gay mentioned that Saturday at 1 pm in the Meese Auditorium, Digital Cinema students would be premiering a sitcom pilot; this was a professonally made pilot which was part of a co-taught course; students were on the crew and directing; it will be online at some point
    * Sarah Guenther stated that a Town Hall was happening Friday from 530-730pm in Elmo’s and students should be encouraged to go.
    * Gay reminded everyone that there would be a meeting in one week for a special session.

Meeting adjourned at 5:29 pm.