Faculty Senate Agenda

Monday, January 13, 2020

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

Absent: None

Guests: Sarah Guenther, Jody Waters, Lee Ayers, Sherry Ettlich, Deborah Rosenberg, Susan Walsh, Linda Schott

Meeting called to order at: 4:01 pm

1. Approval of Minutes from 12/02 & 12/09 (Special Session)
   * Kurutz moved to approve December 2nd minutes; Fedorek seconded. Carlton, Chenjeri, Condon, Fedorek, French, Hocevar, Hutton, Jablonski, Koyack, Kurutz, Moreali, Longhurst, Morey, Phillips, Siders, Siem, Stanfill, Thatcher, and Yates voted to approve. None opposed. Oliveri, Harmon, Gay, Golding, and Anderson abstained. **Motion passed**.
   * Kurutz moved to approve minutes of December 9th special session; Fedorek seconded. Carlton, Chenjeri, Condon, Fedorek, French, Hutton, Jablonski, Koyack, Kurutz, Moreali, Longhurst, Morey, Phillips, Siders, Siem, Thatcher, and Yates voted to approve. None opposed. Stanfill, Harmon, Hocevar, Oliveri, Golding, Gay, and Anderson abstained. **Motion passed.**
2. Report from Trustee Deborah Rosenberg
   * Rosenberg was present to speak about her board participation. She would love to continue with the Senate’s support.
   * Rosenberg stated that the board members are extraordinary people, very dedicated to the success of the institution, very serious people. SOU is privileged to have faculty, staff, and student representatives on its board. All three are asked regularly for their input.
   * Thatcher asked if Rosenberg is a voting member, and she is. He then asked her if she had any fun insights. She said the work was going well; people do their work and their research, and they are not arbitrary or whimsical.
   * Rosenberg was asked what type of input she gives. She answered that she is asked about the strategic plan--whether it is being implemented, how faculty feel about it. She said that she can’t “answer” for all faculty, but she can tell the truth about what she sees and knows.
   * Yates asked if the faculty/staff/student representatives are are excluded from some things, but it was clarified that they are only excluded from discussing matters relating to the CBA. Rosenberg said has never felt excluded. She had an opinion on something on her first day and she was taken seriously. Rosenberg stated that the board is in good hands with Lyn Hennion as the chair.
   * Schott noted that the faculty, student, and staff representatives are included on the president’s contract negotiations and evaluation.
   * Gay asked what committee Rosenberg is on, and she answered that she is on the Academic and Student Affairs Committee. There are different meetings, but Rosenberg goes to all of them to be well informed, and finds it can be helpful to hear things twice.
   * Schott noted that she had heard that people are often unaware of how much work and preparation it takes to serve on the board. For example, this week’s packet of materials is 100 pages long.
   * Siem asked how long the term is, and Rosenberg responded that it is two years, and she is at one and a half terms now.
   * Golding asked why Rosenberg doesn’t get a course release for serving on the board. Walsh explained that no trustees get compensation.
   * Thatcher noted that Rosenberg had just “gotten her feet wet,” and asked if it would be better for her to continue or to get a new person. She responded that she would like to continue unless Senate wanted someone else.
   * Gay noted that the Board appreciates continuity. Anyone can apply at any time; the candidate doesn’t have to come from Senate. The governor will look at all applications and then ask the chair for a recommendation. All things being equal, they would vote for continuity but would want faculty support for that person.
   * Chenjeri was losing his voice so Moreali asked his question, which was what advantage Rosenberg would bring in continuing. She stated that she has been at SOU 20 years, has chaired 2 departments, has served on Senate, she knows most of the administrators, is used to working collaboratively, and has a sense of humor.
   * Thatcher asked why it is only 2 years, but no one knew.
   * French thanked Rosenberg for her work and said that he couldn’t imagine anyone doing a better job. Thatcher agreed and many senators nodded in agreement.
3. President’s Report – Linda Schott
   * Schott stated that Board meetings were coming up this week; they are time consuming for the actual meeting time but also for preparation
   * She will do an update on the strategic plan with the Board, and financial updates. There is nothing huge to be aware of, but she is always happy to have people attend or listen in. She always does a president’s report, and will do a report on the new President’s Task Force on Financial Sustainability.
   * The people who’ve already agreed to serve on that task force are: John King, Bret Anderson, Sarah Grulikowski (student), Paige Leeper (student), Karen Stone, Chance Whiteyes, Jonathan Chavez-Baez, Helen Eckard, Gordon Carrier, and Greg Perkinson will chair. There will be subject matter experts like Josh Lovern. There will be ad hoc members too. There will be a lot of reading to do, a lot of education for those not really involved with the budget in the past
   * University-Community collaborations are coming out of SD 4; Suresh Appavoo is leading one on equity, diversity, and inclusion and is meeting with the school district, OSF, and Asante. There is another one with IT officers, Tom Battaglia and someone from Asante, someone from the school district. There is another on on Emergency Management that Greg Perkinson is doing. They are planning to do an evacuation drill in August.
   * The university has been working on a survey that will be distributed in the community; it gets at things like how do you interact with SOU, do you know a faculty member, do you know a student, have you hired a student, what is SOU’s impact on parking, etc. The Chamber board voted in favor of distributing it to their membership, plus they have other groups. The president’s office will share info from it when they have it
   * We requested capital funding from the state for several projects including a new building for Music and digital media; it ranked higher than in the past but not high enough to get chosen. The governor is trying to get money released in bonds for projects but our project is probably below the threshold to get funded
   * We put in a proposal to demolish Cascades; HECC recommended that it get funded directly because it will decrease energy usage etc. It’s for demolition not construction so is not in the queue with the other projects. The president, Jeanne Stallman, et al. will be lobbying to get that allocated.
   * There is a lot of concern in the legislature around transfer credits and community colleges, but we accepted 93%. We are not the problem; we will keep spreading that information.
   * Retention is measured yearly but also term to term; previous terms we’ve lost 5% fall to winter’s end; we are at 2.5% now. We are cautiously optimistic.
   * Jablonski asked about the email that went out about ethical conduct. Schott responded that it is part of her responsibility as president to send it out annually. Our auditor looks at it.
   * Gay asked about the Music/DMC project, which was the only SOU project ranked in top 10 but scored low; he wondered why. Schott said that PSU has a big project that is eating up a big chunk of the funds
   * PERS rate increases may be leveling off due to investments
4. Provost’s Report – Sue Walsh
   * Walsh thanked everyone for work done in summer and fall; she was compiling it all in Improve recently for the trustees, and had a hard time getting it into one page, which is a good feeling. In a brief summary:
   * Gen Ed work is moving forward; lots of curriculum approvals, new concentrations, new majors, new certificates etc.
   * Task forces have been working on FPARs, Post-tenure review; and other topics
   * We continue work on serving adult learners; we participated in a prior learning assessment impact study, with WICHE and CALE. We looked at challenge exams, credit for military service, other kinds of training, etc. We are looking at how we can offer credit for accomplishments or trainings. We do it for INL but hope to increase assessments for other groups
   * We created an academic program review process, haven’t had one since 2014; ⅓ of programs go through process on 3 year cycle; some programs have already reached out about going first
   * Walsh said that it was a pleasure to put together SD 1 progress 6 month report.
   * Yates asked where are we on the academic calendar. Walsh said that she thought they were going forward with Stillman’s proposal. Ettlich said that he had announced a Wednesday start, week 0, no classes on Veteran’s day, no classes on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving but the campus would be open. There will not be a two week spring break. Walsh is going to ask Stillman to send out information on this.
5. Advisory Council Report – Chair-Elect Kemble Yates
   * Most of meeting was setting the agenda and looking at things coming up
   * Paul French brought up idea of a wellness credit which has been kicked around before; it’s too early to bring to Senate, but at some point we may be bringing this back
   * Also discussed the faculty representative to the Board of Trustees
   * AC discussed how to complete the FPAR task force work; Gay will ask Joan McBee to meet with the committee and bring forth recommendations
   * AC talked about other task forces; post-tenure review task force will be coming this term to Senate
   * AC also talked about how we would choose the person for the Financial Sustainability task force--we have two volunteers, Dennis Slattery and Devorah Shapiro.
   * Gay noted that this is first time we have more than one volunteer; we have asked them each for a statement about what they bring to task force and why they want to serve, then we need to decide if there will be a voice vote, a secret ballot, or what.
   * Fedorek asked who are the faculty serving already. Bret Anderson is on the task force as a chair, Chance Whiteyes is on the task force as faculty (from NAS).
   * Walsh noted that there will be subgroups. Schott said that she expected that there will be a group formed around academic portfolio development
   * Yates said he would feel more comfortable with a secret ballot
   * Anderson asked if it would be done by the Election committee. Yates suggested a paper ballot would work.
   * Longhurst noted that we have secret ballots for other things, why not for this?
   * Yates moved to have a secret ballot, Golding seconded. Anderson, Carlton, Golding, Chenjeri, Condon, Fedorek, French, Harmon, Hocevar, Hutton, Jablonski, Koyack, Kurutz, Moreali, Longhurst, Morey, Oliveri, Phillips, Siders, Siem, Stanfill, Thatcher, and Yates voted in favor, none opposed, and Gay abstained. **Motion passed.**
   * Gay said that he didn’t know if Slattery and Shapiro are coming in to the next meeting, but they will send statements
6. ASSOU President’s Report – Britney Sharp
   * Sharp was not present. Sarah Guenther presented in her place.
   * The ASSOU budget was approved; they made a lot of cuts and removed a bunch of positions. The budget committee had to do a second version after they learned more about budget. That version will need to get approved next time, and then it will go to allocations.
   * Gay asked about the kinds of positions cut. Guenther responded that division senators were cut; the director of internal relations was cut, and the director of student advocacy was cut.
7. Review New Academic Policies – Dave Carter
   * Waters presented. The policy committee submitted two academic policy changes; one is about waiting to submit petitions for non-accredited institutional credits. They will do away with this policy and simply not accept credits from non-accredited institutions.
   * The second policy change is an alteration for time period grade option change
   * Jablonski asked how many students have petitioned for credit? Waters said that very few do so, there are other processes, like those for prior learning, that are better options.
   * Fedorek said that CCJ is in the idea phase of accepting law enforcement credits from the academy; would that count as non-accredited? Waters said it would, but credit for prior learning might capture them. Fedorek asked if RCC accepted them, and then the student came from RCC to SOU, what would happen then. It was noted that this process was similar to money laundering.
   * Anderson asked about the grade change policy change; asking if it was going to be after finals were completed and the grade was known. Waters confirmed this; and said it happens anyway, just with an override.
   * Yates said he was for it, but noted that grades tend to get turned in during 12th week, and wondered if the policy should be amended to 12th week. Waters said this was a possibility. Siem wondered if it could it be the end of the next term, but this might cause other complications.
   * Siders asked if faculty could we know which students are pass/no pass; or if advisors could know. Most programs require grades for majors.
   * Yates asked about the process for changing the grade option, and wondered if the form students fill out could warn students that P/NP would not satisfy a requirement for a class requiring a grade.
   * Gay asked for Waters or Dave Carter to update him if any alterations are made before the vote at the next meeting.
8. Approval of University Studies Proposals from SOAN (introduced 12/02)
   * Courses are in Drive. SOAN 211 and SOAN 339
   * Yates moved to approve both courses. Kurutz seconded. Anderson, Carlton, Golding, Chenjeri, Condon, Fedorek, French, Harmon, Hocevar, Hutton, Jablonski, Koyack, Kurutz, Moreali, Longhurst, Morey, Oliveri, Phillips, Siders, Siem, Stanfill, Thatcher, and Yates voted in favor, none opposed, and Gay abstained. **Motion passed.**

1. Review OAL Graduate Curriculum
   * Waters deferred to Thatcher for this item.
   * Thatcher noted that a lot of OAL students don’t want to do a thesis, and want to do a project instead. It is still rigorous. It would spread the advising work around which would be helpful.
   * Waters said that they want to have a task force on graduate projects and thesis work, and make sure it’s collaborative
   * Thatcher noted that as it is now, it’s a lot, reading 12 80 page papers, and it would be good to get others involved advising projects. He would still do the thesis advising. There are lots of projects that could be done out there.
2. Announcements/New Business
   * Longhurst noted that MAT applications were due Friday, and numbers were down a little. They will still take qualified people on a space available basis; so send them interested students
   * Harmon said that the Campus Theme just concluded its first event; Enrique Chacón and Harmon did a presentation on experimental music in the black box theater. He thanked Stanfill for his assistance. Campus Theme has a couple other things coming up; On the 22nd they have a philosopher of science coming from UC Davis to give a talk on the Misinformation Age. 7-8 pm in Science 151. Golding is giving a talk on 29th in Meese room in library 7pm on 3 (extra)ordinary stories of survival etc in WWII France. There are a number of great programs coming up.
   * Gay said that DCin is doing a casting fair tomorrow and Wednesday from 6-9 in the Digital Media Center. It is an open casting call anyone can come at anytime.

Meeting adjourned at 5:22 pm.