Faculty Senate Minutes

Monday, May 10, 2021

4:00-5:30p

*Present:* Melissa Anderson, Jeremy Carlton, Paul Condon, Brian Fedorek, Paul French, Andrew Gay, Marianne Golding, Justin Harmon, Laurie Kurutz, Eric Levin (repl. Brendan McMahon), Jesse Longhurst, Merrilyne Lundahl, Matt Moreali, Tiffany Morey, Anna Oliveri, Aprille Phillips, Mark Siders, Ellen Siem, Michael Stanfill, Chad Thatcher, Precious Yamaguchi, Kemble Yates

*Absent:* Amy Belcastro, Michael Parker

*Guests:*  Alma Rosa Alvarez, Lee Ayers, Enrique Chacón, Anne Connor, Violet Crain, Eric Crook, David Humphrey, Dan DeNeui, Sherry Ettlich, Bonnie Holmes, Joan McBee, Scott Rex, Alena Ruggerio, Linda Schott, Matt Stillman, Karen Stone, Sue Walsh, Steven Wasserman, Jody Waters

Meeting called to order at: 4:00 pm.

1. **Approval of Minutes from 4/26**

[video timestamp - 1:00 min]

**Motion & Vote:**

Kurutz moved to approve the minutes, and Oliveri seconded. **Motion passed** with 1 abstention (Fedorek).

1. **President’s Report – Linda Schott**

[video timestamp - 2:04]

Underutilized University Properties

* + A working group has developed recommendations for how to best use these properties.
  + Before making any decisions, SOU will hold a webinar (5-6 pm, 6/2) to give the campus and community an opportunity to provide input on this topic. The webinar will be recorded and made available to all.

End-of-Year Recognition Ceremony

* + This will take place 12:30-1:30 pm June 9 and will have the same components of the end-of-year breakfast.
  + There may be an in-person event in Fall, such as a campus-wide picnic.

COVID Vaccination Policy

* + OSU, PSU, and UO have announced a vaccination requirement for students and employees in Fall.
  + ASSOU Cabinet indicated its support for a vaccination requirement last week, and VP Woolf will meet with ASSOU tomorrow.
  + SOU is approaching the decision carefully, meeting with all constituent groups, and may announce a decision as early as Wednesday (5/12).

1. **Provost’s Report – Sue Walsh**

[video timestamp - 6:39]

Meetings with Constituent Groups to Discuss a COVID Vaccination Policy

* + Provost Walsh met with leadership in APSOU, Senate, and IFS.
  + Alana Lardizabal is meeting with SEIU.

1. **Advisory Council Report – Chair-elect Melissa Anderson**

[video timestamp - 7:36]

Items on the Agenda Discussed at AC

* + These include recommendations for Carpenter Grant awards, changes to the Faculty Awards process, proposals from the Curriculum Committee, a proposal from the Academic Policies Committee about foreign language requirements, changes to the FPAR bylaws (developed by the Constitution Committee after the AC meeting), and proposals from the Gen Ed Task Force (finalized after the AC meeting).

Other/Future Discussions:

*Gen Ed Task Force*

* + - AC discussed outcomes from the previous week’s general education forum and materials provided to Senate.
    - The task force is providing proposals early to give faculty more time to review them.
    - The gen ed proposals will need to continue moving forward for a Fall 2022 launch to provide time for new course development and approval, course scheduling, and budget planning.
    - The new model and its requirements should be very clear to students. Clay Austin from CATL has advised against making this too complex.

*Student Learning Experience Survey (SLES)*

* + - Some faculty going up for promotion/tenure will have both old student evaluations and information from the SLES. The SLES committee is developing recommendations addressing this issue.
    - The bylaws require that faculty respond to SLES data in their FPARs. Additional training may be provided to show faculty how they can (and can’t) use the SLES data.
    - The surveys are not meant to be evaluations, which is a philosophical change in the way we look at the feedback.

Faculty Senate Leadership

* + Anderson is the current Chair-elect and will become the Faculty Senate Chair next year.
  + Senate has 2 open positions for next year: President-Elect and Secretary.

Elections

* + *Senate:* Division-level faculty senators have been elected, and the election for at-large faculty senators will end on Thursday.
  + *Faculty Personnel Committee:* Elections are in progress.
  + *Chairs:* This is currently in the nomination phase.

1. **ASSOU President’s Report – Violet Crain (ASSOU President)**

[video timestamp - 35:23 (occurred later in the meeting)]

Meetings with Administration

*COVID Vaccination Policy*

* + The ASSOU Cabinet met with President Schott, and ASSOU will meet with VP Woolf (see President Schott’s report).
  + ASSOU will meet with Jody Waters about commencement decisions.

Elections

* + Election applications closed last Monday, and candidates are currently campaigning. Polls will open on Friday.
  + The main focus at the moment is ensuring that the elections are equitable.

Discussion:

*Requirement for Campaining in Class*

A student can campaign in a class only if the professor/instructor grants permission for them to do so. Though it is not required, the students who campaign should encourage students to review the platform of every candidate.

1. **Faculty Development Committee recommendations (Discussion)**

Carpenter 1 Grants [video timestamp - 14:33]

* + There were fewer requests and all have moved forward.
  + Fedorek moved to waive the 2-week rule, and Golding seconded the motion. **Motion passed** with 1 abstention (Kurutz).
  + Golding moved to approve the recommendations, Stanfill seconded the motion. **Motion passed** with 1 abstention (Kurutz).

Edits to criteria and procedures for Distinguished Faculty Awards [video timestamp - 18:14]

* + *Eligibility Criteria: Duration of Employment at SOU*
  + The current duration of employment requirements are different for different awards. This has not yet been proposed or approved but was mentioned as an intended change: Candidates for each award must be faculty employed at SOU for a minimum of 5 years (consecutive years not required).
  + Proposed changes:
* Eligibility requirements: A candidate must not have received the award (be it scholarship, service, or teaching) within the last 10 years.
* Timeline: There is more consistency between the 3 awards. The timeline has been put in a table format and might be integrated into Activity Insight.

Discussion:

*Updated Versions of the Documents*

The documents in the Drive will be updated to reflect the changes listed above.

*Teaching Award Needs SLES Language*

The Teaching Award will require new language, as it currently refers to teaching evaluations rather than the Student Learning Experience Survey.

1. **Curriculum Committee proposals (Discussion)**

[video timestamp - 28:56]

New Special Ed (SPED) Minor

* + Special education teachers are in high demand across the nation. This curriculum would give undergraduates exposure to SPED and provide a pathway for undergraduate students into an SOU SPED master’s degree program.

New Courses

* + Many are from the English program, as the Curriculum Committee requested that they hard-number theme-varied courses already taught. The themes are designated by the letter following number (*e.g.*, ENG 208A, ENG 208B). All ENG 208 and ENG 209 themes meet University Studies E-strand requirements.

1. **Possible Bylaws amendments (Discussion)**

[video timestamp - 37:43]

Process

* + Amendments must be shared with all faculty 7 days prior to a vote at a Senate meeting. Hence, Senate cannot waive the 2-week rule to fast-track their approval.

FPAR Task Force Recommendations

* + The Constitution Committee has incorporated FPAR task force recommendations into the bylaws with a minor change to reflect the use of the SLES instead of teaching evaluations.
  + *Proposed Language Changes During Senate*
    1. Make the language between teaching, scholarship, and service parallel by replacing “Teaching Effectiveness” with “Teaching Activities”
    2. Similarly, replace “teaching evaluations” with “teaching activities”

Graduate Studies Committee

* + In the past, Senate approved a bylaw amendment to rename the committee Graduate Council and another bylaw amendment to increase the number of members from 6 to 7.
  + These bylaws changes were submitted to the President on October 14, 2018, and she signed them, but the bylaws changes have not been published.
  + The group has been operating with 7 members since this change but has since determined that it is a committee rather than a council, meaning that the bylaws will likely need to be amended again to change the name back to Graduate Studies Committee.
  + A key change in the proposed amendment to the bylaws involves length of service (1-year renewable terms).
  + Clarification: The statement (in bylaw 1.327 b) that “the membership shall be spread across the University’s various graduate programs” ensures balanced representation from graduate programs. However, all graduate faculty (faculty with a terminal degree in their discipline) are eligible to serve on the committee.

1. **Academic Policies Committee proposal re Foreign Languages (Discussion)**

[video timestamp - 52:55]

Reasons for the Proposal

* + When students are admitted to SOU without having met the 2-year foreign language admissions requirement, they are asked to meet the requirement while at SOU and their DegreeWorks information carries a DFL (deficient in foreign language) tag.
  + However, there is no language in the catalog that requires a student with the DFL tag to meet the foreign language admissions requirement before graduation.

Proposal

* + The proposal: (1) requires satisfaction of the 2nd language requirement through 1 of 3 pathways and (2) shows foreign language as a degree requirement, effectively removing the deficiency language and mindset.

Discussion:

*Degree Requirement*

The requirement will be coded as a degree requirement rather than a deficiency tag. Students qualifying for a BA will meet this requirement automatically.

*Perception*

Shifting to a foreign language degree requirement (rather than deficiency) changes a perception: Students who did not have the opportunity to complete foreign language studies before entry to SOU are now given that opportunity.

*Connection to Gen Ed*

Language provides an intercultural and cultural competency that supports the emphasis on diversity in the new general education models. It’s important to maintain a commitment to world languages that is transparent to students.

1. **Proposed Changes to General Education – Two Models (Discussion)**

[video timestamp - 1:02:20]

Timeline

* + Proposed changes will be discussed at this and the next Senate meeting with the goal of putting forth 1 of the proposed models for approval at the last Senate meeting of the term.

Recommendations, Models, and Implementation

* + Gay shared 3 documents with all faculty on Friday (5/7). One document includes a list of recommendations, one discusses the 2 gen ed models, and one outlines next year’s implementation process.
  + At the last meeting of the term, the Gen Ed Task Force will propose that Senate approve the list of recommendations.

Transfer Articulation and University Studies Teach-Out Plan

* + The task force will work with Matt Stillman and his office to develop a transfer articulation plan. Faculty will receive the plan after the next Gen Ed task force meeting.
  + The task force recognizes that when the new gen ed is implemented, some students will have partially completed requirements for the University Studies model. The task force is working on a teach-out plan to accommodate these students.

Proficiencies for the Capacities

* + The University Studies Committee is working to align the proficiencies developed by the 6 capacity subcommittees (see materials from the 3/8 Senate meeting). The alignment will simplify the language and reduce overlap between capacity proficiencies.
  + Updated proficiency language that is clear to students and represents the intentions of the capacities will be sent to Senate before a vote, but the language may be further modified after a vote.

Model A and Model B2

* + At the 4/30 gen ed forum, faculty seemed content with Model A as presented, but a number of faculty were concerned that Model B was too flexible.
  + Therefore, the task force will move forward with 2 options: Model A (unchanged) and Model B2 (slightly more structure than the original Model B).
  + Both models require that students take courses from multiple prefixes, ensuring breadth.

Discussion:

*Credits Per Course*

All Model A courses except the culminating portfolio course would carry 3-4 credits. Model B (B2) gives faculty the opportunity to provide unique/creative 1- or 2-credit opportunities (*e.g.*, cross-disciplinary collaborations, experiential learning).

*Prefixes for Model B2*

Students could take paired 1- and 2-credit courses in Model B2, and the pairings could come from the same prefix or different prefixes (making cross-disciplinary capacities possible). However, students would be limited to 4 credits total from a particular prefix.

*Depth in the New Gen Ed*

The model discourages students from taking multiple classes within the same discipline, which does not encourage deeper learning in a discipline. This may be more of an issue for the sciences than in the humanities or social sciences. The new model encourages depth in capacities rather than disciplines, and the portfolios facilitate this by asking students to make connections between the capacities and their courses (in and beyond gen ed), their co-curricular activities, etc.

*Accelerated Course Review Process and Procedure*

There would be 4 outcomes for proposals submitted for course approval. To delegate the work, 3-member faculty teams would be created to suggest a particular outcome for each proposed course. To facilitate the implementation of the new model, the 3-person teams would be able to recommend a 5-year approval for particularly strong proposals. The recommendation would go to the University Studies Committee, which would then be able to forward the recommendations to Senate for approval.

*Faculty Poll*

Yates or Gay will send a poll to faculty to assess their gen ed model preferences.

1. **Announcements/New Business**

[video timestamp - 1:29:13]

There is a request to have a formal discussion and potentially respond to a recent email sent to all faculty. This will be discussed further at the next AC meeting. Please email Yates with any related ideas or requested actions.

The meeting adjourned at 5:32 pm.