

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2021

3:30pm-5:00pm

Zoom Meeting

Invitees: Dr. Emily Cutrer, Dr. Melinda Arnold, Dr. Angie Parmentier-Sikorski, Dr. Corrine Hinton, Dr. David Allard, Dr. Sean Bailey, Dr. Vikram Bhadauria, Dr. WaiYuen Chan, Dr. Rebeca Cooper, Dr. Heather McKnight, Dr. Nelson Irizary, Dr. Doug Julien, Dr. Brian Matthews, Dr. Drew Morton, Dr. Michael Perri, Dr. Faycal Znidi

Attendees: Dr. Emily Cutrer, Dr. Melina Arnold, Dr. Angie Parmentier-Sikorski, Dr. Corrine Hinton, Dr. David Allard, Dr. Sean Bailey, Dr. Vikram Bhadauria, Dr. Rebeca Cooper, Dr. Nelson Irizary, Dr. Doug Julien, Dr. Brian Matthews, Dr. Drew Morton, Dr. Michael Perri, Dr. Faycal Znidi

Absent: Dr. WaiYuen Chan, Dr. Heather McKnight

Guests: Ms. Lesli Banister, Dr. Brian Billings, Dr. Jing Chen, Dr. Kelly Coke, Dr. Joy Cooper, Dr. Del Doughty, Dr. Kevin Ells, Dr. Abdallah Farraj, Ms. Nicole Fant, Ms. Melba Foster, Ms. Susan Gleeson, Dr. Kathy Lease, Dr. Sheila Moore, Dr. Trisha Ray, Dr. Gary Stading, Dr. Mary Beth Womack

- I. **Call to Order** (3:35 pm).....Dr. Angie Sikorski
- II. **President’s Report**.....Dr. Emily Cutrer
 - a. Thanked faculty who attended the faculty town hall meeting.
 - b. Discussed legislative sessions and the discussion of approving a new building.
 - c. Shared appropriation amounts for regional institutions and at-risk students.
 - d. Shared results of the economic impact study with the University.
 - e. Talked about sending a letter that addresses the racial incidents on campus and that Charlotte Banks is also fielding and addressing issues that have been reported.
 - i. Drs. Allard and Julien addressed the consideration of the nature of incident (i.e., student to student)
 - ii. Cutrer responded that the nature of the incidents was student to student and that groups on campus are diligently working to find viable solutions to mitigate the issues.
 - iii. Dr. Julien emphasized the need for the specificities of any solution rendered and the need to have informational discussions with students
- III. **Provost and VPAA’s Report**.....Dr. Melinda Arnold
 - a. Thanked Cutrer for her openness and transparency.
 - b. Expressed the inability to have time to sit down and have robust conversations with faculty but asked faculty to give her a chance to prove herself and that she will review her notes from the town hall meeting and address them accordingly.

- c. Morton mentioned that he sat in New Faculty Orientation and addressed professional development, time allotment for research, overloads, hiring backlog, service commitments, work burdens, and the idea that he missed being a researcher and teacher.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes from 09/09/2021**.....Dr. Angie Sikorski
- a. Motioned-Julien; 2nd-Allard; Motion carried unanimously contingent upon suggested edits; No abstentions.
- V. **DEI Request from Provost**.....Dr. Angie Sikorski
- a. Julien asked which Committee should assume responsibility for this initiative.
 - b. Faculty discussed appropriate areas to post jobs to attract diverse candidates and questioned the attempt and focus to integrate DEI in hiring processes.
 - c. Julien and Hinton supported the notion that administration is not criticizing the current framework but are suggesting formidable ways to integrate DEI principle in the hiring process.
 - d. Sikorski recommended forming an ad hoc committee whose focus is DEI and suggested that Matthews and Morton co-chair the committee.
 - i. Motioned-Allard; 2nd-Julien; No abstentions; Motion carried unanimously (12-0-0).
- VI. **SPBB Report**.....Dr. Angie Sikorski
- a. Cutrer will provide a template for faculty to submit suggestions of item they would like administration to consider.
 - b. Sikorski shared the discussion during the SPBB meeting of the urgent need to replace the HVAC unit in BLV and the costs associated with the project.
- VII. **CTL**.....Dr. Corrine Hinton
- a. Hinton stated that the Center for Transformative Learning (CTL) is now under the auspice of the Faculty Senate.
 - b. Allard suggested to continue with the system as currently practiced.
 - c. Julien recommended a structured approach in form of an ad hoc committee to oversee the function of CTL
 - i. Motion-Julien; 2nd-Morton; Abstained-Hinton; Motion carried unanimously (12-0-0).
- VIII. **AASCU**.....Dr. Angie Sikorski
- a. Faculty discussed a diverse, dual approach to take who currently training.
 - b. Hinton mentioned that the faculty who are interested to participate in the AASCU Accelerator should consider the time investment.
- IX. **T&P Workshop**.....Dr. Angie Sikorski
- a. Dr. Jordan sent Sikorski a letter about the current T&P process.
 - b. Hinton suggested ideas of workshops, panels, and resources related to CTL that could be integrated into an instructive approach to work collaboratively with the T&P Standardization Committee.

- c. Perri shared the history of T&P training and emphasized the need for mentoring in disciplinary areas.

X. **Task Forces**.....Dr. Angie Sikorski

- a. Sikorski shared an update from the meeting attended with Cutrer, Arnold, Hinton, and Matthews.
- b. Sikorki addressed the task forces that would remain under the supervision of Arnold and those that are now under the leadership of the Faculty Senate.
- c. Morton talked about how the Academic Strategic Plan was historically under the auspice of the Faculty Senate.
- d. Perri stated that he is curious about Arnold’s surprise regarding faculty’s issue with the formation of the task forces and how she could be unaware of the seriousness of this decision.
 - i. Perri suggested writing a formal letter in response to Arnold’s decision to capture the collective resolve of the Faculty Senate.
- e. Julien argued that the Faculty Senate should continue to push for more Senate involvement and to move committees under the supervision of the Senate.
- f. Ells talked about the need to use descriptive and diplomatic language if a letter is drafted to prevent confusion and to mitigate complexity.
- g. Hinton suggested the notion that the letter should be written by elected representatives to clarify the stance of the Faculty Senate.
- h. Perri motioned to form a subcommittee to work on a resolution to be sent to Arnold; 2nd-Allard; Opposed-Julien; No abstentions; Motion carried (11-1-0).
 - i. Julien asked CBET faculty to provide input about the matter.
 - ii. Bhadauria had no perspective on the matter
 - iii. Bailey stated that Arnold has afforded the Math department flexibility and had no current issues; Znidi agreed with Bailey.
 - iv. Ad hoc will consist of the following members:
 - 1. Hinton (Chair), R. Cooper, Perri, Matthews, Billings, Ells

XI. **Senate Constitution**.....Dr. Angie Sikorski

- a. Sikorski discussed criteria for eligibility.
- b. Sikorski shared the absence of departmental voices who should be afforded the opportunity to share input and offered clarification on being 50 percent or more administrative per the by-laws.
- c. Sikorski addressed the idea of filling McKnight’s seat on the Faculty Senate.
- d. Nakashian stated that the constitution should be formally operationalized
- e. Julien voiced disagreement of the removal of McKnight and supported the need for correcting the obligatory rule that hinders clinical participation.
- f. Faculty discussed sensible ways in which to approach filling McKnight’s seat on the Faculty Senate and the ad hoc seat she held.

- g. Hinton suggested calling attention to who will focus on eligibility criteria.
 - h. Morton recommended that the task be assumed by Perri who is Chair of the Rules and Procedures Committee.
- XII. **Consent Agenda**.....Dr. Angie Sikorski
- a. Motioned-Allard; 2nd-Morton; No abstentions;; Motion carries; Yea’s- Morton, Allard, Sikorski, Cordray, Hinton, Cooper, Perri(6); Nay’s-0; Non-voters-6
- XIII. **Committee Reports**
- b. Ed Tech.....Dr. David Allard
 - i. Nothing to report.
 - c. Curriculum.....Dr. Doug Julien
 - i. Nothing to report.
 - d. Rules and Procedures.....Dr. Heather McKnight
 - i. Sikorski referenced email send by McKnight stating resignation from the Faculty Senate.
 - e. Academic Standards.....Ms. Kelly Cordray
 - i. Absent
 - f. FRED.....Dr. Rebeca Cooper
 - i. Reported that a graphic had been created and inserted in the Need To Know to ask faculty to submit their proposals and discussed the changes in proposal deadlines.
 - ii. Sikorski suggested also emailing the information to faculty.
 - g. Budget.....Dr. Corrine Hinton
 - i. Hinton stated that a new committee had been formed and that names should be submitted and approved by Sikorski.
 - ii. Recommendations for the Committee are:
 - 1. Hinton (Chair), Murdock, Jordan, Kang, Morsey, Nguyen, Racheotes
 - h. Faculty Welfare.....Dr. Drew Morton
 - i. Discussed plagiarism, the Minnie Piper Stevens Award, and the Faculty Welfare Happy Hour
- XIII. **Other Business**
- a. Senate discussed Faculty Evaluation and the Library Search
 - i. Julien will represent CASE and a member of CBET must be selected to serve on the search committee.
 - ii. Faculty mentioned that Leann Wright addressed concerns about commencement to Arnold
- XIV. Next Meeting – November 11th @ 3:30pm-5:00pm via Zoom
- XV. Motion to adjourn-Morton; 2nd-Hinton; Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.