

# University Senate – February 29th, 2016



University Senate Meeting Minutes  
February 29th, 2016  
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
Lower Dansbury

## **IN ATTENDANCE:**

John Abbruzzese, Abdalla Aldras, Beth Banks, Terry Barry, Todd Behr, Rob Berkowitz, David Bousquet, Briana Brizill, Joanne Bruno, Alberto Cardelle, Li-Ming Chiang, Robert Cohen, Darla Darno, Robert D'Aversa, Susan Dillmuth-Miller, Kathleen Duguay, Brenda Friday, Melissa Geiger, Sheila Handy, Peter Hawkes, Drew Johnson, Keisha Kauffman, Jonathan Keiter, Richard Kelly, Heon Kim, Jaedeock Lee, Clare Lenhart, David Mazure, Andi McClanahan, Matthew Miltenberger, Bob Moses, Fernando Perez, Suzanne Prestoy, Kennedy Sheeley, Pat Smeaton, Mike Southwell, Yoshi Tanokura, Kenneth Long.

## **ABSENT:**

Mary Beth Allen, Nurun Begum, Teri Burcroff, Richard Connell, Esther Daganzo-Cantens, Scott Dietrich, Marleen Dymond, Johan Eliasson, James Emert, Joe Eshun, Binetou Fall, Chantal Fulgencio, Heather Garrison, Mark Gatesman, Sandra Gordon, Michael Gray, Kelly Harrison, Jan Hoffman, Yi-hui Huang, Barbara Miccio, Joseph Miele, Albert Moranville, Mary Frances Postupack, David Primus, Leigh Smith, Marcia Welsh, Gene White.

1. Roll Call (sign in)
2. Approval of November 30th, 2015 Minutes
  - Changing “lunge” with “lounge”.
  - Minutes approved by general consent.
3. University President’s Report
  - The affirmation letter from the PASSHE Board of Student Government Presidents was sent to state legislators regarding the state budget.
  - Recommendation to the academic affairs committee to look for options for library hours following break periods.
4. Fix the Agenda for the meeting
  - Agenda approved by general consent.
5. Evaluation Committee Reports
  - A survey was conducted online to recognize the potential changes and recommendations for the University senate meeting, items was further organized into four major categories. (See attached)
  - Further changes to the senate will be posted online and a specific items had more than 20 votes then it will be recommended by the executive committee and provide the changes.
6. Executive Committee Report
  - Committee replacements: If a person is replacing an existing senator and is willing to fill in the existing senator’s committee position, the executive committee may make that replacement without further approval by the senate.
    - a. Passed by general consent.
  - When a late opening or early closing occurs within a scheduled class meeting time:
    - a. Motion: When a late opening or early closing occurs within a scheduled class meeting time, the class will not meet at all on that day.
    - b. Moved and passed by a vote of 32 to 5.

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- Moved and seconded: University openings and closings should coincide with the class schedule if possible.
  - a. Passed by general consent.
- 7. Old Business
  - None.
- 8. New Business
  - Nancy VanArsdale recommend invitation for informational reports:
    - a. Motion: To invite the foundation to present a report to the senate at an upcoming meeting on the recent work of the foundation and their giving trends.
      - Moved and passed by general consent.
    - b. Motion: To invite the Alumni Association to present a report to the senate at upcoming meeting on the recent work of the Association.
      - Moved and passed by general consent.
- 9. Announcements
  - Robert D’Aversa announced the technology fee proposal is due mid-march, forms need to be filled and returned.
  - Bob Moses announced that voter registration is now active and couple promotion and publicity activities are underway: poster for voter registration, messages on digital TV screens throughout residence halls, campus, napkin holders, ads on The Stroud Courier, screen savers in computer labs, voter registration parties in halls.
  - Andi McClanahan announced the Women History is taking off 2/29 with a wonderful showing of the “Hunting Ground” (documentary film related to campus sexual assault) will be broadcasting in Stroud hall 113 7:00 pm which is sponsored by Student Activities Association, Student Affairs, Women Center and Women Studies. University Calendar shows many events related to different variety of films related to hip-hop music, leadership, women in sports, etc. Book discussion on “We Should All Be Feminists” will be underway after spring break in the Women Center.
  - Daria Wielebinski announced Career Development Center is hosting an etiquette dinner on has opened March 22, 5:30-7:30pm, a multicourse meal with 35 seats available. Table hosts are faculty, alumni and employers will help engage student during dinner with professional conversation. Reservation can be made by Career Development Center.
  - Fernando Perez announced that an email was sent and urge the campus community to review the proposal sent about the changes of the tutoring center. Suggestions or questions may be sent to Academic Enrichment & Learning Center.
- 10. Adjournment
  - The meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.
  - Next meeting on Monday March 28 (April 25 meeting will be in Stroud 113).

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Appendix – Summary of suggestions for improving the senate (from online survey)

The suggestions (obtained from 13 overall responses) are listed below.

Suggestions dealing with the structure of the meetings

- Have a more engaging and better prepared senate president
- Maintain the current style of streamlined meetings
- If there are no action items for a meeting, use the senate for sharing information (consider identifying thematic topics for each meeting)
- If there are no action items for a meeting, use the senate for discussing issues
- No change needed – no action is required if nothing is brought to the senate
- Discontinue the university senate (since recommendations go nowhere) (2)
- Move meetings to Tuesdays or Thursdays

Suggestions dealing with the selection of senators

- Decrease the total number of senators (i.e., have a smaller senate)
- Provide seats for all collective bargaining units within the senate
- Create a more rigorous process for selecting senators to ensure that senators are interested in doing some “real work”

Suggestions dealing with the committees

- Open up committees to non-senators
- Merge senate committees with other committees on campus to decrease the overall number of committees on campus (2)

Suggestions dealing with the climate

- Show more respect and understanding for the students who participate
- Create a more collaborative climate so that genuine collaboration can occur