



University Senate Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2015
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Lower Dansbury

IN ATTENDANCE: John Abbruzzese, Radhia Adam, Julie Alberio-Walton, Abdalla Aldras, Mary Beth Allen, Terry Barry, Leslie Berger, Joanne Bruno, Teri Burcroff, Alberto Cardelle, Li-Ming Chiang, Robert Cohen, Marianne Cutler, Robert D’Aversa, Chris Davis, Susan Dillmuth-Miller, Kathleen Duguay, Johan Eliasson, Robert Fleischman, Brenda Friday, Heather Garrison, Tom Gioglio, Peter Hawkes, Jan Hoffman, Drew Johnson, Jonathan Keiter, Heon Kim, Clare Lenhart, David Mazure, Joe Miele, Bob Moses, Edward Owusu-Ansah, Mary Frances Postupak, Suzanne Prestoy, Pat Smeaton, Leigh Smith, Stephanie D. French, Doreen Tobin, Dominique Washington, Nancy Van Arsdale, Daniel Watson, Gene White, Scott Dietrich

ABSENT: Nurun Begum, Todd Behr, David Bousquet, Richard Connell, Esther Daganzo-Cantens, Ronald Eith, James Emert, Binetou Fall, Stephanie Gavilanes, Melissa Geiger, Glenn Geiser-Getz, Jon Gold, Sandra Gordon, Michael Gray, Sheila Handy, Kelly Harrison, Yi-hui, Huang, Rebecca Keck, Sarah Batool Khan, Efia King, John Kochmansky, Jaedeock Lee, Kenneth Long, Matthew Miltenberger, Andi McClanahan, Fernando Perez, David Primus, Anthony Ruiz, Brad Seid, Mike Southwell, Thomas Tauer, Marcia Welsh, Qian Xie, Rebecca Zirkelbach

1. Roll Call (Sign in)
2. Approval of Minutes, February 16th, 2015
 - Motion moved and seconded to approve the February 16th, 2015 minutes.
 - Motion carried.
3. University Presidents Report:
 - No president report.
4. Fix the Agenda for the meeting
 - Moved and seconded to accept agenda submitted by executive committee.
 - Motion carried.
5. Old Business
 - Vote on constitution changes (needs 2/3 majority of those present).
 - Passed.
6. New business
 - Currently the bylaws state in section III.M. (nominations and elections committee) (APPENDIX I)
 - Moved and seconded to replace “first senate meeting of the academic year” with “prior to the executive committee meeting during which elections are held”.
 - Moved and seconded to Amend the motion to insert the phrase “at least one week” between “committee” and “prior to the”.
 - Motion to amend passed.
 - Motion to revise bylaws passed.
7. Announcements
 - Johan Eliasson, announced on behalf of the research committee that a research plan has been drafted and will be presented the revised version on April or May.
 - Stefanie French announced that the Theater Department there will be a Midsummer Night’s Dream April 23th and is welcoming the university-wide campus to attend.

- Drew Johnson announced that Community on the Quad will be hosted April 25th.
 - Robert Cohen announced that everyone is welcome to bring concerns to the executive committee who can then refer it to the appropriate senate committee. The following concerns were considered by the executive committee and referred to the academic affairs committee:
 - Whether courses with multiple sections and the same assessment instruments should follow the same grading scale.
 - Whether there is a better way of conveying to students how they can appeal the assignment of their English proficiency status.
 - Scott Dietrich announced that March is the National Athletic Awareness Month and wanted to thank the athletic trainers for their support and service for our athletes.
 - Terry Barry announced that the College of Education is celebrating 15 years of professional development school relationships with a symposium on March 28th.
 - Heather Garrison announced that on March 26th the library advisory committee will host the authors' forum.
8. Adjournment
- The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

APPENDIX I

Proposed Constitution Changes Spring 2015

The proposed changes to the Constitution:

- 1) To change the election date from the first meeting of the fall to the last meeting of the spring prior.
- 2) Elected officials will take up their office at the close of that meeting not during.
- 3) A requirement to run for an executive position one must sit on University Senate for at least a semester.
- 4) After elections for faculty, and student positions, notify the Senate president at most a week after said elections, to ensure an up-to-date list of senate members.

Next steps:

- Once proposed to the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee will then place the proposal on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled Senate meeting and the Senate President shall distribute the proposed amendment to the members of the Senate and university community at least one week prior to the meeting.
- At that meeting, the proposal is discussed. During deliberation of the proposal, the proposal can be modified by a majority vote of the voting members present.
- The proposal shall then be distributed to the members of the Senate and university community at least one week prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting.
- At the next meeting, a two-thirds vote of all senators present will be required for adoption.
- If adopted, the amendment is then forwarded to the President of the University for final approval.

- If the President of the University does not approve the amendment, he/she will provide the reasons for disapproval within 20 days. Rationale:
- Currently the constitution does not have uniform schedule for when the senate should be notified of new senators. Some senators are selected in the fall. For them, the constitution states that the senate should be notified at least one week prior to the first meeting of the fall. Other senators are selected in the spring and, for them, the constitution states that the senate should be notified by May 1. We'd like to change both notifications to occur "no more than one week after the selection." This will also accommodate the selection of replacements that occur mid-year as well as allow for any future changes made to the start times of terms.
- Currently it is not clear when new senators take office. In addition, with senators leaving office at the end of the academic year (due to elections, graduation, etc.), it is possible that the agenda of the first meeting of the fall will be set and presided by officers who may no longer be senators themselves. And, with new officers taking office immediately upon their election, the new officers are then faced with presiding over a meeting for which they have had no input. Moving elections to the last meeting of the spring not only addresses these problems but also has the added benefit of allowing the executive committee time during the summer to select committee membership, rather than waiting until after the first meeting of the fall.

Specific changes:

- Delete the following from Section 4.2.4 (how senators are selected from the unions):
 "In each case the union shall notify the University Senate President as to who the representative will be at least one week prior to the first meeting of the Senate in the fall."
- Delete the following from Section 4.2.5 (how senators are selected from the students):
 "The president of the Student Senate shall notify the President of the University Senate as to who will be the student senators for each academic year at least one week prior to the first meeting of the Senate in the fall of that academic year."
- Add the following subsection to section 4.3 (terms of office):
 "The leadership of each group providing a senator should notify the president of the university senate no more than one week after the selection."

- Delete the following sentence from Section 7.1 (elections of department senators):
“The department shall immediately notify the President of the University Senate of the results of this election.”
- Delete the following sentence from Section 7.2 (elections of at large senators):
“The results of this election will be communicated to the University Senate President by May 1.”
- Remove the following portion from Section 7.3 (elections of state system manager senators):
“and the results communicated to the President of the University Senate”.
- Add the following subsection to section 4.3 (terms of office):
“Each term of office will start at the close of the last senate meeting in the spring. Members filling vacant positions will start their term when the member has been selected.”
- In section 5.4 (specifying the election of offices), change “This election shall occur at the first meeting of the academic year” to “This election shall occur at the last meeting of the academic year except when the last meeting is cancelled due to unforeseen emergencies (like weather)”.
- In section 5.4 (specifying the start of terms), change “Officers shall assume office upon election. Officers from the previous year stay in office until new officers are elected” to “Officers shall assume office upon the close of the last meeting of the academic year, at which point officers from the previous year shall leave their office”.
- Change Section 6.5 (appointment of committee members) so that the appointment of members to open positions on committees normally occurs at the “first” meeting of the year (rather than the second).
- Add the following as the fourth sentence of Section 5.4:
“Only senators who have been a senator in the University Senate for at least a semester are eligible to run for office.”