

Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting

October 15, 2014

Submitted by Senate Secretary, Catherine Seta, Professor of Psychology
Prepared by Amalia Wagner and Catherine Seta, Ph.D.

Caveat: Comments recorded are not necessarily verbatim. In order to facilitate open discussion, the identity of most Senators making comments or questions are not recorded. The identity of comments from Senate Officers and Senate Ad Hoc and Standing Committee Chairs are given, as is the identity of persons commenting in their official administrative capacity (e.g., CFO, Provost and College Dean.)

There were 25 voting Senators present, a quorum. In attendance: Umit Akinc, Edward Allen, Sarah Bodin, Sharon Castellino, James Cotter, Kevin Cox, Larry Daniel, Will Fleeson, Samuel Gladding, Laura Graham, Derrick Hiatt, Simeon Ilesanmi, Tim Janke, Kevin Jung, Claudia Kairoff, Leslie Kammire, Hank Kennedy, Rogan Kersh, Nina Lucas, Emmanuel Opara, Wilson Parker, John Parks, John Pickel, Cathy Seta, Gale Sigal, Kathy Smith, Michelle Steward, Lynn Sutton, Rosalind Tedford, Mark Welker.

President Sigal called the meeting to order. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the September 17, 2014 senate meeting. Approval by a show of hands was unanimous in favor of approval of the September minutes.

Update from the By-Laws Committee

Wilson Parker gave an update on the progress By-Laws Committee (see attachment for full report). This *ad-hoc* committee was constituted because of the confusion inherent in the by-laws that led to questions about the status of votes taken at the special meeting of the Senate held in May, 2014. Attendance at the May meeting fell short of a quorum. The committee presented to the Senate the following two items which need immediate attention and come as a seconded motion from the By-laws committee to the senate body:

a) It is moved that the minutes of last May's meeting be amended to read as follows:

It was determined that the number of elected senators in attendance fell short of constituting a quorum. Votes taken at the May 2014 meeting may be subsequently ratified by the full body.

b) It is moved that the Past-President be made an honorary *ex-officio* member of the Senate during the 2014-2015 term, with the rights and privileges of an *ex-officio* member.

Background: This question arose this year because past presidents have been Senate members. Past-president Kennedy's term expired, which brings this question to the forefront.

Discussion: Questions arose concerning the rights and privileges of *ex-officio* members. Senator Parker informed the Senate body that this status provides for all the rights of Senate membership with the exception of voting. The current by-laws specify that past Senate presidents serve as an advisory member of the Senate Executive Committee. The question arose as to whether a past president whose term on the senate has expired has voting privileges on the EXOM. The Senate

By-laws specify that the immediate past president of the Senate will serve as a non-voting advisor to the EXCOM (See Section 3 of the Senate By-laws <http://facultysenate.wfu.edu/by-laws>)

Both motions passed with a show of hands. Twenty-five were in favor (unanimous vote in favor of the motions). The Senate will vote on ratification of the May, 2014 meeting at a future date.

Integration Committee Report

Senator John Parks, chair of the integration committee, spoke about the challenges with the “onboarding” process for undergraduate students interested in research at the medical school. The reason this has been such an arduous task is that the Medical Center’s Human Resources department treats them as employees. Therefore, they must go through the same steps as a regular employee, including a 7 year background check, drug testing, employee health screening etc., which are the faculty sponsor’s responsibility to obtain. Dean Godwin suggested a solution to this problem.

Dean Godwin stated that providing a high quality research experience for undergraduate students is an important part of the Graduate School mission. Graduate students that do research at the medical school do not have to undergo the same type of screening processes as do employees. Dean Godwin has now instigated the extension of the “unclassified” status given to graduate students to undergraduate students. This status will remove the burden to this screening process and more realistically represent the status of the educational activities undertaken by these undergraduate students. (See Addendum for more detail).

President Sigal noted that the Senate has been working on this for several years. The work of Past Senate President Bourland was recognized in regard to this important issue. This is an important step in providing an educational bridge between the two campuses of the University.

Issues from the Senate body concerning students shadowing medical school faculty were raised. Presently they are required to undergo drug and background checks. Dean Godwin stated that these students should be able to fit under this policy as long as they are approved through the process outlined (see Addendum).

Acting Dean Rogan thanked Dean Godwin for his initiative on overcoming the barriers to undergraduates presented by the cumbersome onboarding practices.

Update from the Resources Committee

Professor Cotter informed the Senate that his committee will be meeting Jim Dunn and Hof Milan to discuss the financial well-being of the University and the performance of the investments. His committee will also focus on career services.

Old Business

Provost Kersh gave an update on the Sexual Harassment Policy. The information the Senate received regarding this policy was in May and at that time there was still one outstanding issue regarding the statute of limitations for bringing forth a complaint. He has reached out to Dina Marty for an update on the policy.

Regarding the Protection of Minors Policy, it is currently in the hands of legal department and they have accepted most of the committees' proposals. Provost Kersh expects continued dialogue on this policy.

New Business

Several faculty members that live on Faculty Drive have brought forth concerns to President Sigal about the new golf complex that is under construction near their homes. These concerns include issues related to lighting and a 30-foot buffer that is planned to surround the complex. Professor Bill Connor is the president of this neighborhood's HOA and is acting as a liaison between the neighborhood and the University regarding this construction project.

President Sigal also expressed her impression that faculty may also be concerned with the allocation of so much money for this complex. Wilson Parker clarified that any Senate member can bring up a topic during new business. Senators represent fellow faculty members and it is appropriate for fellow faculty members to voice their concerns to senators and to have these concerns expressed to the Senate body. At that time, the President can assign the issue to an existing committee or create an ad-hoc committee to research the matter. This matter was then referred to the committees on Athletics and Resources for further discussion within these committee structures, with the plan that these committees would bring back to the Senate more information on the subject.

President Sigal asked if there was any further new business. There was not. She adjourned the Senate at 4:45pm.