

## Minutes of the Faculty Senate February 2, 2022

### Attendance

**Senators** - Carolyn Jester, Aaron Calvert, Janna Lock, Deepak Pant, Matthew Gross, Catherine Leach, Richard Miller, James Engman, Robert (Matt) Breece, Darrel Farmer, Michael Loos, Beth Wyatt, Carly Cate, Connie Phelps, Mark Mosser, Torri Ellison, Sally Crain, Brian George, Fred Worth, Jonathon Barranco, Carrie Flora, Dever Norman, Steve Adkison, Patrick Wempe, Shannon Wittig, Jane Adams, Megan Hickerson, Shari Valentine

**Senators absent** - Holly Cothren (alternate, Judith Jenkins was not present)

**Guests** (note - several who attended are senate alternates but each one's senator was present so their status for the meeting was "guest") - Alan Blaylock, Alex Arce, Allison Divine, Angela Boswell, Beth Maxfield, Bryon Martin, Cheryl Bates, Chris Todd, Christopher Golston, Christy McDowell, Crystal Campbell, Don R Kelly, Doug Heffington, Elisha Cone, Greg Gibson, Ingo Schranz, Jack Higginbotham, Jarrod Bray, Jennifer Amox, John Greene, John Long, John Price, Joseph Campbell, Karen Ashcraft, Kasten Searles, Katherine Strause, Lacy Wolfe, Leah Wood, Linda Evans, Lisa Massey, Marck Beggs, Margaret Hoskins, Margo Duvall, Miranda Franco, Nathan Campbell, Nathan Holloway, Nevada Mills, Peggy Woodall, Penny Whelchel, Phil McDaniel, Shannon Clardy, Shelley Austin, Suzanne Kordsmeier, Talisha Givan, Tami Arnold, Thomas Copeland, Tiffany Rogers, Tommie Campbell, Trudi Sabaj, William Henshaw, Willica Morgan. The following are people who did not sign in on the google document but were present. However, their screen names were sufficiently cryptic that the secretary could not determine exactly who they were. A Morton, Amber, Ashcraft, Bowdenm, John, Lowe, Lynn Mallory, Musek, Reynolds, Salina, W. Holt, William

President Engman called the meeting to order at 3:19 pm

Minutes - There was a motion and second to approve the January minutes, approved

### Committee reports

- 1.) Executive Committee - addendum 1
- 2.) Academics Committee - no report
- 3.) Representative to the Board of Trustees - no report
- 4.) Buildings and Grounds Committee - they are working to arrange a meeting and are getting the previous senate's report of outstanding issues.
- 5.) Finance Committee - addendum 2
- 6.) Representative to the Graduate council - addendum 3
- 7.) Operations/Handbook Committee - addendum 4
- 8.) Procedures Committee - addendum 5
- 9.) Shared Governance Committee - no report

Old business - none

New business -

- 1.) Drop date for single course - after discussion the academics committee was charged with examining the possibility of moving the "drop one class" date to a little later in the semester.
- 2.) There was a motion and second for the March senate meeting to be zoom only. After discussion the question was called. The call was seconded and passed. The motion passed.
- 3.) Dr Worth had told the senate he would be presenting a motion for a fund-raising plea to alumni. After talking to Tina Hall, he found out such a letter was in process so he did not present the resolution.

President's Report - Addendum 6

A lot of discussion followed.

There was a motion, second, friendly amendment that Dr Engman will collect and compile questions after Thursday's Campus Conversation to be presented to Dr Ambrose in advance of an upcoming special senate meeting. The question was called. The call was seconded and passed. The motion passed.

There was a motion and second that "Dr Hickerson will craft a response to Dr Ambrose's comments at the special senate meeting and will present that response to the senate within a week. The senate will then discuss and consider the response to be followed by an electronic vote." The motion passed.

Motion and second to adjourn, passed. The meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.

## Addendum 1 - Executive Committee

### **Executive Committee Meeting Summary**

11:00 am, January 25 and 2:00 pm, January 28, 2022

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Members Present: James Engman (chair), Dever Norman, Fred Worth, Catherine Leach, Shannon Wittig, Shari Valentine, Janna Lock

Items to report:

- 1) Agenda was set
- 2) Discussion of an appropriate drop date was determined to best be business handled by the academics committee
- 3) The issue of aligning calendars between HSU and OBU was found to be already in the works. Dr. Hunt and Dr. Elwin Martin are considering the problem

## Addendum 2 - Finance Committee

### Finance committee January report

1. We may have time conflicts attending the University Budget Committee meetings, is it possible to send another committee member or shall we amend the By-Laws to include chair or chair-elect to attend...?
2. Speaking of University Budget committee meetings, usually on one Friday a month in the spring, has anyone heard any information or know a person of contact for them?
3. Once information is received, we will elect a chair in our February meeting and report back to the senate our agenda for the year and the chair elect

End report

### Addendum 3 - Representative To The Graduate Council

Report of the Faculty Senate representative to the Graduate Council, 2/3/2022.

The Council met at 12:30 on Tuesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

The agenda was as follows:

I. Approval of minutes from December 7, 2021 meeting

II. New Business (1st Reading)

a. Course Change Proposal: Master of Business Administration

The council approved both the minutes and the course change proposal.

The meeting adjourned at about 12:45.

#### Addendum 4 - Operations/Handbook Committee

"We discussed who might be willing to serve as chair, though no final decision was made. We also discussed what has been passed by previous senates but is still awaiting action from the ASU System Board."

Addendum 5 - Procedures Committee

**Faculty Senate Procedures Committee Report**

02-02-2022

Procedure Committee Members Attendance: Janna Lock, Chair, Webmaster, Shannon Wittig, Chair-Elect, Webmaster-Elect, Matthew Gross, Catherine Leach, Richard Miller

Topics:

- **Faculty Senate Alternate Vacancies**
  - All vacant positions for alternates for current senators have been filled and the alternates for the senators have been notified.
  - Replacements are as follows:
    - *Biology*-Tommy Finley
    - *Counselor Education*- Joe Campbell
    - *Mathematics, Computer Science, and Statistics*-Michael Lloyd
    - *Professor At-Large*-W. Martin James
- **Faculty Senate Webpage updated**
  - Dr. Wittig has graciously updated the Faculty Senate webpage to reflect the most current Faculty Senate members and officers. My thanks to her for taking care of this!
  - Proposal to continue to have zoom meetings for the rest of the semester.

Respectfully,



Janna Lock, Procedures Committee Chair and Webmaster

## Addendum 6 - President's Report

### Faculty Senate President's Report

February 2, 2022

Meeting with Dr. Ambrose, January 26, 2022

I met with Dr. Ambrose for an hour on January 26. Much of the discussion centered around the plans for "retrenchment." In an email earlier that week, I had asked him if the university planned to follow the provisions in the Faculty Handbook concerning financial exigency. He answered, via email, that it did plan to follow those. During our zoom meeting, I asked him about apparent conflicts between what appears to be taking place, and in particular the timeline. The faculty handbook outlines a protracted process, with a great deal of faculty input and participation before any reductions or eliminations of programs. It also requires that after tenured faculty to be eliminated have been identified, they are given a minimum of 12 months' notice before the end of the contract period. Despite the email two days earlier, he told me that the university could not afford to follow the provisions in the handbook. When questioned about the level of faculty input we could expect in the process, he did not have an answer. I asked about the handbook provision that students enrolled in programs of study that are eliminated will be allowed to complete their degrees, he did not have a definite answer, but speculated that we might call on other schools in the ASU system to help accomplish that.

I asked about the state of the promotion and tenure system, and whether people eligible to apply in the current cycle should submit their applications. He did not have an answer, but stated that he would like to see the system kept, in some form, because people need that.

Dr. Ambrose outlined some things that he expects to be implemented in the very near future, although he emphasized that the situation is fluid, and that I should not represent these as definite. He said that he expects faculty to be required to furlough for one day a week, for up to 12 weeks. I asked how classes would be managed without major disruptions and decreases in content and activities. He did not have an answer for that. Also, on top of that, he expects that there will be an additional salary reduction. He then expects that reductions and eliminations on the academic side would be effective fall semester. He also stated that HSU's policy of paying health benefits to early retirees is not sustainable, and expects it will be eliminated with the next fiscal year's budget. Those people already receiving those benefits should be able to keep them.

I raised the question regarding Bobby Lee's apparent salary increase. This was brought up by past president Dr. Talisha Givan in her December meeting with him, and he was going to look into it. He did not have an answer for me, but he is going to look into it. I brought up the concerns of many faculty regarding the diversity training course that was required last year. I stressed that we all recognize the importance of attention to matters of diversity, but that the means of delivering that was quite burdensome last year.

I asked about the recent changes to the course fee system, made under Rita Fleming. Course fees no longer go to the academic departments, and they are not allowed to roll over as they were in the past, providing the departments the opportunity to plan for anticipated needs. He stated that the current system will need to change, but due to it,



many students do not know the cost of attendance until they actually register for classes.

Meeting with Dr. Hunt, January 24, 2022

I met with Dr. Hunt for slightly less than an hour on January 24.

I brought up the decoupling of the HSU and OBU academic calendars, and discussed a variety of ways in which this is having negative effects on students from both schools. I had previously discussed this with Dr. Martin, and Dr. Hunt was aware of the situation. They are going to meet and discuss it. We discussed the fact that there is supposed to be a Calendar Committee, but that it has not met in quite some time. The decision to decouple the calendars was apparently made by Dr. Borsig.

I asked about the timeline for students to withdraw from a single course. Currently enrolled students have until April 1 to withdraw from one course and receive a "W" on their transcript. After that, students can only withdraw from *all of their classes* at once. Some faculty feel that this puts many students in an untenable situation, and may have negative effects on retention, progress to completion of the degree, and financial aid. Previously, students were allowed to drop a class up to one week prior to the end of regular classes. I did not/do not know when this change took place, but it is in the last paper copy University Catalog that I have (2010-2012). After some discussion, we agreed that the best approach might be to have this come as an action item from the Senate.

We discussed the Shared Governance Committee, and its failure to meet recently. We both feel that it is an important committee, and he will be in contact with the new chair of that committee, Dr. TaLisha Givan.