

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

February 3, 2021

3:15 PM via Zoom

Senators present: Talisha Givan, Michelle Johnson, James Engman, Fred Worth, Trae Warner, Michael Loos, John Long, David Warren, Richard Miller, Carolyn Jester, Jane Adams, Willica Morgan, Steve Adkinson, Dever Norman, Zahra Zamanipour, Christopher Golston, Mary Jane Dunn, LTC Moyer, Judy Harrison, Shannon Wittig, Torri Ellison, Lim Tchoi, Matthew Gross, Janna Lock, Jennifer Holbrook, George Finkle, Brian George, Kristi Glass, Patti Poblete, Judy Carlyle, Catherine Leach, Penny Whelchel, Millie Bowden, Joseph Campbell, Connie Phelps, Lisa Ayres, Mark Mosser, Karen Herrin, Patricia Sindelar, Celya Taylor

Guest: Dr. Jim Borsig

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order: Dr. Talisha Givan
2. Approval of minutes: A motion was made and seconded to approve the January Faculty Senate minutes. The minutes were approved.
3. President's Report:
 1. **Covid Vaccinations:** Dr. Borsig acknowledged partnership with Baptist Health to hold the vaccination clinic. HSU nursing faculty, OBU nursing students, Baptist Health personnel onsite accommodate the staff/faculty
 2. **Students:** We are waiting for \$1.8 million of second stimulus funds to go to students. We cannot tell them how to spend the money. Students can spend it on the cost of attendance or any other expense related to Covid-19, including mental health counseling. Students can spend money on the cost of attendance and any other expenses related to Covid-19. As changes are still forthcoming, we will include messaging to students once we receive guidance on funding from the ASU System.
 3. **Budget:** The number living on campus is just over 1,170 as of the first of this week. Also, the October budget adjustment anticipated spring semester enrollment would track fall semester enrollment, so a 12% decline was forecast. Final student semester credit hour data is being audited and then Rita will be able to update the financial forecast for the rest of FY 20-21.
 4. **Enrollment:** Our spring semester enrollment is down 14% from the same point a year ago. More students live on campus this semester. Our

housing numbers have increased from 63% in the fall to 66% today; however, that data is still pending census data. Strategic Enrollment Committee in place to address retention and student recruitment.

a. **Recruitment:** Historically, we recruit a lot of first generation college students, but right now, our recruiters cannot get into high schools due to Covid-19 concerns. In some instances, our recruiters are trained to administer the Acuplaser in high schools; unfortunately, those students may not choose Henderson. Additionally, there are other factors at play: high schools are not sending groups to college campuses on recruiting trips, lack of access to ACT testing, limiting students' ability to obtain scholarships, publicity, access, among other things. Dr. Borsig feels that if we can get first-generation college students on campus, we can enroll them. Statistically, it is more challenging to enroll first-generation college students if they are not on campus. We will know more information in March.

b. **Retention:** Currently, we have a 65% retention rate. We have to get our first-year students integrated into our campus community. We need to help them see what their future looks like and show them what happens next. HSU is working on a Title III grant application, which will help provide funding for best practices and reimagine all the services needed to wrap around our first generation students.

c. **Strategic Enrollment Committee:** The Strategic Enrollment Committee is tasked with submitting actionable recommendations by spring break. In fall 2021, we shoot for 70% of courses in a face-to-face format based on what we have seen and know from our students' voices. The on-campus piece is critical for student success, as well.

5. **Legislation:** As of Tuesday, HB1218 is a conversation piece, and it requires some verbiage edits to exclude extracurricular activities. The HB1231 has more appeal than the HB1218. The regular presidents and chancellor's legislative conference calls will begin Monday afternoon, so more information is forthcoming. However, there is a growing consensus in opposition to the bills.

4. Report of committees*

a. **Executive Committee:** James Engman- Committee met Friday, Jan 29 at noon to set the agenda.

b. **Academic Committee:** Matthew Gross is chair. No additional report

c. Buildings and Grounds Committee-David Warren is chair. No additional report

d. **Finance Committee:** Brian Goerge is chair and Mark Mosser is chair elect. No additional report at this time.

e. **Operations and Handbook Committee:** Tori Ellison is chair and led discussion on current state of handbook.

Update on former changes approved by the Faculty Senate in 2019

- 2019 changes were approved by the Faculty Senate and sent to the Provost and Elaine Kneebone to be approved and brought before the Board of Trustees for final approval.
- 2019 changes never moved to the Board of Trustees
- We would like to ask President Givan to inquire about these changes and their current status.

Update on 2020 Handbook Project

- This project from the last Faculty Senate Handbook Committee worked on a full review of the Handbook and made proposed changes.
- The former committee sent these proposed changes to Dr. Hunt and Elaine Kneebone in October of 2020 to get feedback and advise.
- The former committee was planning to make adjustments based on that feedback and then submit to the 2020 Faculty Senate for approval.
- They never received any feedback.
- We would like to introduce the work they began to our current Faculty Senate for discussion and approval.
- We plan to work from the documents they have provided and seek input from the Senate about any suggestions regarding the current proposed changes.
- We also would like each area to contact our committee in regards to any new proposed changes they would like to see.

f. **Procedures Committee:** Shannon Wittig is the chair. She stated that there needed to be a webmaster elect this year. Darrell Farmer was nominated and unanimously approved. No further report.

g. **Shared Governance Review Committee:** No report at this time.

h. **Representative to the Board of Trustees:** No report at this time.

i. **Representative of the Graduate Council:**

j. **Unfinished Business:** None

5. **New Business:** TA faculty member submitted their concerns about online course instructors who schedule assignments or exams in a short time frame (1-2 hour deadline for completion) which often conflicts with a student's face-to-face class. Students essentially are faced with asking an instructor to skip class in order

to complete the exam or missing an exam/assignment to attend class. Neither option is optimal for student success. Senators mentioned that this scenario has happened more than we realize and even they are conflicted in how to respond to a student's request. The Senate has asked that we bring awareness to the Deans (and Department Chairs) to begin conversations with faculty about ways to curtail the conflicts. While we understand the need for maintaining integrity in our courses, we hope this awareness piece will allow us to give a second thought to our procedures that directly impact student success. We have listed some considerations below, but please know that the Faculty Senate Academics Committee will work towards a more formalized set of policies and/or procedures moving forward.

Suggestions:

- * Clarifying the definition of online classes as synchronous or asynchronous
- * Communicating with faculty to help establish ways to offer assignments/exams in each category of an online course
- * Scheduling assignments/exams in asynchronous courses with longer windows of time to allow students to complete the assignment or exam
- * Sharing IT resources and information about Respondus Browser which uses artificial intelligence to proctor exam. The academics committee, possibly in consultation with the Teaching and Learning Council, shall consider a longer term solution to this issue.

6. **Adjournment:** 4:45 PM

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Johnson