

FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES

September 5, 2024

4:00-5:30 PM

DRAFT

Attending: Scott Knowles, Kelly Goonan, Chris Monson, John Karpel, Grant Shimer, Chris Graves, John Benedict, Christian Bohnenstengel, Jacob Dean, Scott Hansen, David Hatch, Derek Hein, Maren Hirschi, Jon Karpel, Bryan Koenig, Michael Kroff, Elise Leahy, Jon Lee, John Meisner, Elijah Neilson, R. Alexander Nichols, Michelle Orihel, Rachel Parker, Amanda Roundy,, Ryan Siemers, Nate Slaughter, Kevin Stein, Jeanne Subjack, Lee Wood, Chris Younkin, Qian Zhang

Not Attending:

Proxies:

Guests: Mindy Benson, James Sage, Om Mehta, Shalina Kesar, Matt Mckenzie

1. Call to order / Quick Picture for the Website (4:03)
2. Recognition of Presenters and Guests
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes: (4:20)
 - a. [April 18, 2024 Minutes](#)
 - i. Minutes were approved. Ryan Seimers and Lee Wood.
4. Events and Announcements:
 - a. Thank you to any faculty who volunteered for a Super Start Station. The students really appreciated the snacks and support during the first two days of classes.
 - b. The Writing Across the Curriculum group is partnering with CTI to host a workshop series focused on how to improve writing in all disciplines. You can find out more information on [CTI's Writing Across the Curriculum page](#). You do not need to commit to all of the sessions. It is designed to pick the sessions that interest you.
 - c. Faculty can submit [Caught Red Handed awards](#) to other faculty, staff, and student employees. The Staff Association will deliver these awards monthly (if not more frequently).
 - d. Partnering with the Leavitt Center for Politics on a conversations series titled **Engage and Exchange**. Sept. 19th, Sept. 26th, Oct. 3rd, Oct. 10th, Oct. 24th. Noon on Thursdays in the Sharwan Living Room. <https://www.suu.edu/leavittcenter/>
5. Information Items:

- a. Faculty Senate Meeting Procedure: [Parliamentary Procedure for Faculty Senate](#) (Grant Shimer)

Speaking procedures: if you would like to contribute, raise your hand and then folks will speak for a limit of 2 minutes, statements need to be brief. Everyone gets to speak before someone else speaks again. Please say if it's your first time what department you represent. Anyone can motion. Please see the link for more information.

- b. Temporary changes to policy 6.1 - Please send feedback (Kelly Goonan)

Scott: Final revisions are in the works. Any information or feedback please send to Kelly and the Academics Affairs Committee.

Kelly: As you're working through the process this year, any feedback from your departments will be welcomed so we can incorporate it into our decision. Please send via email.

6. Action Items: (4:25)

- a. [Policy #6.60 – Graduate Studies: Personnel and Curriculum](#)

This was postponed. This is still in the process of being revised with the Graduate Council and Provost's office. Motion carried to postpone this indefinitely.

- a. Committee Assignments

- i. Program and Course Fee Committee - Nate Slaughter
- ii. Library Committee - Elise Leahy
- iii. Faculty Review Board (Chair) - Mike Kroff
- iv. Learning and Development Committee - Rachel Parker
- v. Staff Association Liaison - Amanda Roundy
- vi. Parking Ticket Arbitration Committee - Victoria Zhang

7. Discussion Items: (4:36)

- a. Faculty Senate Scholarship: [Current Criteria](#) (Scott Knowles)
 - i. Endowment

We will be doing another fundraising for a scholarship. We take donations from faculty throughout the year and whatever amount we receive we distribute to non-trad

students ½ money will be distributed and the other ½ will be in an endowment. For the last few years it's been difficult to get applications for that scholarship. We hope that you can talk to non-trad students and spread the word.

b. Senate Priorities (Scott Knowles)

- i. Compensation - WAFSEC committee handles this and you will hear from them often about this.
- ii. HB 261 - Legislative Updates - If you have complaints – email Scott and he will represent you in his various meetings. There is a questionnaire submission form on the SUU legislative task force website. The taskforce will respond.
- iii. Shared Governance - My plea is that you bring to me things that need attention regarding this and what is working.

c. Academic Affairs Committee - Review of Policies outside of 6.0 (Kelly Goonan and Scott Knowles)

This came up over the summer – the Academic Affairs committee is tasked with reviewing the academic policies (6.0) with SUU. There is a rep from each college/school and the library and is chaired by the past president of the faculty senate. One of the questions that have come up is how faculty should be involved in the review of policies that are not in those academic 6.0 policies. One example is last year, Kevin Price was working on a retirement policy and shared out of courtesy even though we are not an official approving body, we do not vote on policies that are not 6. policies. But there was a discussion about whether there was interest in having the Academic Affairs committee either review policies that are outside of academic policies but that affect faculty or create a separate policy review committee, which would be similar to what the staff association has to review policies that affect staff at SUU. All policies go through a 21-day public review. This question was raised in the interest of whether or not we want more involvement in other policies that directly impact faculty. We only have decision making power with curriculum so all we can do is say what we think about other policies.

Chris: So we haven't been involved with other policies?

Scott: No

Kelly: Abbi was involved in the conflict of interest policy – but it was more of a courtesy from the provost's office.

Chris: What is the benefit?

Scott: We will regularly review all policies. There is merit to the idea that we only handle 6.0. But there is a plus for shared governance if we are involved in policies outside 6..

Kelly: There is one representative from each college on the Academic Affairs committee.

Maren: I am in favor of having a voice on policies that affect us.

Chris: Would this committee all be made of senators

Scott: I'm not sure if it would be made of senators or if we can contact colleges for a rep. I don't know what that would be like for this ad hoc committee. Take this back to your departments and see what folks think.

Comment: if we formed a committee would it duplicate the work?

Scott: This new committee would review all policies outside of the 6.0 policies. We would review the other policies (outside of 6. policies) and offer recommendations but we do not make final decisions.

Kelly: The Board of Trustees are the decision making body. All policies within the university go through a slightly different process depending on what section they fall under. For example, the 6 point policies, academic and faculty, are voted on by the Faculty Senate and the Dean's Council. They're also discussed and voted on at the President's Leadership Council before going on to the Board of Trustees. Any policy goes through a 21-day campus review for public comments via emails. This ensures that faculty voices are included in the drafting and revising of policies. So the question is: do we want to have a more formal way for faculty voices to be involved in those policies that wouldn't necessarily come through the Academic Affairs Committee, but still affect faculty in their role as employees at the university.

d. USO Feedback

A lot of our clubs have transferred into the University Sponsored Organization. A faculty or staff needs to serve as advisors for clubs. There is some confusion about what the departments are responsible for and we do not have access to the risk matrix. Please check in with your faculty to see if there are any confusions/questions we can take back and get more clarification on.

Comment: Is there a central place for more information

Scott: The STIL office but we are having trouble getting information.

e. Call for New Business / Faculty Input

Ryan: I have worked at 5 other institutions and all have had an administrative drop policy, which states that if the student doesn't attend the first 2-3 weeks of a course they are enrolled in, they are automatically dropped, which opens up space for other students seeking to attend the class (waitlist). UT Tech policy was read. Please consider it as a possible action item.

Another issue is the English proficiency of ESL students has declined. Concerned that the testing may not be viable.

There are 29 full time faculty members 15 are NTT most are promoted. The current policy in 6.1 has some strange language (4.G.11) about NTT can negotiate a longer period of review if they email the chair/dean 2 weeks before. This is in distinction from the 5-year system that we had prior to this recent legislation. So the recent legislation, the way that it seems to be working is that everyone has to do a FEC report, but for promoted tenure track folks that only has to go to the chair. For promoted NTTs, though it still goes through the entire FEC report chain and so that's producing a lot of extra work for our department P&T committee, the chair and the Dean, and ultimately the Provost, where we're sending several more of these than we would if those people were tenure track. So there's a lot of interest in my department and the college and we are in support of changing the language in that policy, so that the NTT posts just go to the chair in the same 5 year report cycle as the tenure track bills. Every year there have been significant changes to the P&T process every year. I'm hoping we can stabilize that.

Bryan Koenig: Concerned about bias from chairs against faculty.

Chris: Anything the library can do to reduce costs to students we try to implement. We have refreshed and relaunched our OER/LEO Grant.

8. Standing Committee Updates: (5:07)

- a. Faculty Review Board
- b. Parking Ticket Arbitration Committee
- c. Staff Association Liaison

David Hatch received a caught red handed. Please nominate your faculty and staff colleagues for helpful deeds.

- d. General Education Committee (Ryan Siemers)

Meeting next week.

- e. University Equity and Inclusion Committee

Concluded its work June 30, 2024. SUU is looking to create a new committee to address the attainment gap, the Attainment Gap Institutional Success Committee. The new committee is seeking representation from each college and school, and several offices on campus.

f. University Curriculum Committee (Rachel Parker)

We will meet in a couple of weeks.

g. Student Association Liaison (Om Mehta)

Provided an introduction as the liaison. If you need anything passed on to student leaders or to sit on committees, I can help. I am the academic representative. Listed some of the resolutions on the docket.

h. Benefits Committee (Cody Bremner)

The rep will continue to serve in this capacity and he will attend when he has information for us.

i. Faculty Awards Committees:

- i. Distinguished Faculty Lecturer and Grace A. Tanner Committee (Christopher Graves)
- ii. Employee Commitment for Access and Belonging (Kelly Goonan)
- iii. Outstanding and Distinguished Educator Award Committee (Bryan Koenig)
- iv. Distinguished Scholar/Creative Award Committee (Christian Bohnenstengel)
- v. Distinguished Faculty Service Award Committee (Derek Hein)

j. Treasurer's Report (Jon Karpel)

Trying to figure out the accounts and the funds that we have. We need to come up with an idea on how to use that money. We are limited in its use. Once we get the numbers firmed up we will have more to share. I will be meeting with the financial aid and scholarship offices and will share information at the next meeting.

k. Past President's Report (Kelly Goonan) - Academic Affairs Committee; University Faculty Leaves Committee

Updates from the academic affairs committee we have a number of policies that are in effect and we need to update policies. What we are parking on is 6.1 and 6.2. 6.2.8 and 6.2.2 are priorities. The committee met today and the plan is to look into the due process for tenured faculty in 6.2.2 and we want to revamp the 6.2.8 to include due process (will be taken out of 6.2.2) Jake Johnson has offered to draft a conflict or grievance policy to replace a portion of 6.2.2. We will present these to the Faculty Senate in Oct for a vote. Hoping to have it ready for the Board of Trustees in December.

The Faculty Leave Committee hasn't met yet.

The Legislative Task Force has transitioned from reviewing to implementation. There are five different working groups, each chaired by a cabinet member: Jared Tippetts, our VP of Student Affairs, is chairing the Student Services group; Tiger Funk is chairing the Facilities and Operations Group; Danika is chairing the campus Culture and Community Group; Shauna Mendini is chairing the Academic group; Kevin Price from HR is chairing the training group.

We haven't met yet this year but once we do we will continue meeting every other week. We are working to keep the FAQ page updated so check there for questions and submit one if it isn't already addressed.

- I. President Elect's Report (Chris Monson) – UCFSL; Workload and Faculty Salary Equity Committee (WAFSEC)

The UCFSL met this summer. Scott went and the task force is addressing what was discussed. The organization structure has been adjusted.

I will have a report on WAFSEC next meeting.

- m. President's Report (Scott Knowles) - Policy/Procedure Arbitration Committee; President's Council; Dean's Council

We will see changes in how program changes occur – more information to come.

There is a business and industry engagement day – we are encouraged to engage with community partners and find ways to collaborate. USHSE and the legislature are looking into these collaborations. Contact Steve Lisonbee for more info.

Maren Hirschi: Honors counsel update – the honors faculty canvas resources course is available. Contact Katie Englert at the Honors Office.

9. Call for Executive Session

10. Adjourn (5:27)