

Clayton State University Faculty Senate

13 March 2023

ATTENDEES

Senate members: Shakil Akhtar, Augustine Ayuk, Eric Bridges (Chair), Kate Cotter-Reilly, Deborah Gritzmacher, Anthony Hannah, Adam Kubik, Samuel Maddox, Larry Menter, Erin Nagel, Ken Nguyen, David Plaxco, Stacey Reynolds, Ann Showalter, Kendolyn Smith, Sharon White

Guests: Dennis Attick, Dmitriy Beznosko, Stephen Burnett, Christie Burton, Hae Ryong Chung, Shannon Cochran, Everod Davis, Romesa Davis, Deborah Deckner, Kevin Demmitt, Erica Dotson, Clint Edmunds, Antoinette France-Harris, Michelle Furlong, Sonya Gaither, Erica Gannon, Nichelle Gause, Brian Goldman, Christina Grange, Pinar Gurkas, Linda Hain, Sara Harwood, Dwayne Hooks, Jeff Jacobs, Joe Johnson, Ebrahim Khosravi, Mary Lamb, Renee McFarlane, Thomas McIlwain, Joshua Meddaugh, Paul Melvin, John Meyers, Antoinette Miller, Keith Miller, Caitlin Mullins, Eugene Ngezem, Francine Norflus, Adel Novin, Rosann O'Neill, Melanie Poudevigne, Michael Sitvarin, Scott Stegall, Carolyn Walcott, Celeste Walley-Jean, Mark Watson, David Williams

ORDER

The Senate chair, Dr. Eric Bridges, called the meeting to order at 11:01am.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Interim Provost Dr. Jill Lane shared remarks on behalf of President Dr. Georj Lewis. Several task forces have been formed by the Board of Regents (BoR) related to policies and budget flexibility, transfer student success and dual enrollment, share services across USG institutions, and athletics. There is a strategic meeting of the BoR in March, during which the test-optional policies for admissions, among other items, will be discussed.

March 6 was cross-over day in the state legislature. As part of the budget, legislators are considering a \$2K cost of living adjustment for state employees and several USG capital improvements projects.

The Strategic Planning Committee co-chairs have been announced: Dr. Antoinette France-Harris and Mr. James Pete. The Provost and Athletics Director searches will both launch this week. The Provost search will be chaired by Ms. Corlis Cummings, while Mr. Jeff Jacobs will chair the Athletics Director search.

PROVOST'S REPORT

Interim Provost Dr. Jill Lane pointed out the fliers around campus reminding students to register for summer and fall classes. Registration for fall classes opened this morning. Faculty interested in participating in the phone campaign to enhance registration should contact their department chair.

Dr. Lane announced that the QEP Committee, chaired by Dr. Anthony Stinson and Dr. Ashlee Spearman, will focus on first-year experience efforts. The SACSCOC accreditation reaffirmation report for the university is due on September 8.

Dr. Lane reported that modifications to the faculty administrator evaluations policy, which include faculty evaluation of administrators every two years, have been sent to the USG for approval. She has not received a response yet.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

Caitlin Mullins from the Mental Health Initiative encouraged faculty to participate in Question, Persuade, and Refer suicide prevention training and adult mental health first aid training. These trainings are available for faculty, staff, and students. Links to these trainings were shared with Senate Chair Dr. Eric Bridges for distribution to all faculty.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

1. Faculty Affairs Committee. Chair Dr. Michael Sitvarin reported that the committee is working on a SEI user-manual that includes tips and tricks on how to get the most out of the SEI including increasing response rates, and on best practices on using SEI for faculty evaluations. Next meeting: Mon, Mar 20 @ 10am.
2. Academic Policy Committee. Chair Dr. Antoinette France-Harris reached out to the advising office to see if the APC's assessment tool for student preparedness for online courses can be used in student orientations and advising. Next meeting: Thurs, Mar 16.
3. Student Affairs Committee. Co-chair Dr. Deborah Deckner Davis reported that the committee has finalized the student survey on retention and student success topics. The committee is seeking IRB approval for the survey. Once approved, faculty who were randomly selected to administer the survey will be contacted.

MOTIONS FOR APPROVAL

There was a motion to approve revisions to the Faculty Handbook policies on Annual Evaluations (section 202), and there was a second. The members voted orally and over the chat on Teams. The motion was approved.

There was a motion to approve revisions to Student Evaluations Instrument (SEI) that was passed the Faculty Affairs Committee, and there was a second. The members voted orally and over the chat on Teams. The motion was approved.

There was a motion to approve the new courses and programs proposals that have been approved by the University Curriculum Committee, and there was a second. The members voted orally and over the chat on Teams. The motion was approved.

There were motions to approve the minutes from the November 28, January 23, February 6, and February 20 Faculty Senate meetings, and there were seconds. The members voted orally and over the chat on Teams on each motion. All motions were approved.

There was a motion to approve the inclusion of the Academic Policy Committee's online course standards document as an appendix to the Faculty Handbook, and there was a second. The members voted orally and over the chat on Teams. The motion was approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of Changes to Promotion & Tenure Policy (section 205) in the Faculty Handbook. SAFE Committee member Dr. Steve Burnett described the key changes to this section of the handbook including the overlay for the Student Success category into Promotion and Tenure requirements and the inclusion of an appeals process earlier in the P&T process. SAFE Committee co-chair Dr. Ann Showalter went over key changes to the P&T form. Attendees provided minor suggestions on the form to clarify the student success overlay and how total credits would be calculated. Each academic unit will be responsible for defining the criteria for each rating in the 5-point Likert scale assessment.

There was discussion related to separating the Scholarly Activities and Professional Development sections, although it was made clear that this document and its forms have been approved by the BoR and that such a substantial change to the policies would require BoR approval. In meetings by the SAFE Committee, committee members expressed concern about separating these two categories as it would create an additional point of failure for faculty undergoing the P&T process.

The university faculty meeting where these policies will be voted on by faculty is on May 3 at 10am.

Policies on Evaluation of Faculty Administrator. Senate Chair Dr. Eric Bridges distributed the revised policy document with all faculty prior to the meeting. Chair of the ad-hoc committee tasked with developing these policies, Dr. Michelle Furlong, summarized the justification for the every-other-year approach to faculty feedback surveys on their faculty administrators. Faculty were encouraged to review the revised policy document that was discussed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Dr. Bridges provided a brief update on the activities of the USG Faculty Council, which has been discussing activities in the state legislature and a presentation from the AAUP.
2. Dr. Bridges reminded attendees that elections for next years' Faculty Senate and subcommittees are due to begin on week 10 of the spring semester. Interim Provost Dr.

Lane said that Tammy Wilson takes a census of full-time faculty in each college on the tenth week, which will determine the number of Senators each college will have. This is distributed to the Deans of each college to conduct elections.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:29pm.

Minutes recorded by Ann Showalter, Secretary of the Faculty Senate.