

Faculty senate minutes DRAFT

David Craig

2021 February 12

Previous minutes

Manfredi moved to accept, Holland seconded. Minutes accepted with minor changes.

COVID committee

Babb: appreciate patient job by COVID committee, Monday will try to deliver preliminary results. In the next period between meetings we need to move through getting results.

Holland: yes we should go ahead and get results to address recent comments from Wendler. Would like if someone else could help with data because of department commitments.

Babb agreed to do data download, King agrees to help with characterizing results.

Farren commented that survey did not have time frame for submissions.

Holland: should move forward with what we have so far.

Babb: committee should operate on what we have and decide whether to ask for more time for faculty to take it.

President-elect committee

Babb: the elect system would encourage turnover. Encourage committee to sustain work through this semester.

Deadline for good standard operating procedures: we need to have this going into our elections so that new group understands procedure. But, should give opportunity to weigh-in from other faculty. Committee should solicit input. Opportunity to test senate communication resolutions.

Should we solicit input from colleagues?

Macaulay: question on any remaining issues from last time.

Babb: No (brief discussion on previous committee work.)

Babb: should we solicit input from faculty?

Macaulay: (anecdote of people not replying to other initiatives)

Clark: Doesn't need to be more than to enjoin us to let colleagues know. Surprised when came to WT that senate had no president-elect system.

Craig: need to see a digest, to give to faculty no matter what they do.

Rausch: does this change constitution, bylaws? If changes constitution, instructional faculty have to vote, if it changes only bylaws, 2/3 of senate must vote. Not sure if constituents would read it.

Babb: best would be to get digest together.

Clark: can we get the digest on wtclass? Also minutes, etc.

Craig: will put minutes on wtclass.

IT recognition

Was suggested senate make some statement of recognition for work in COVID crisis. Suggestion from faculty.

Craig: agree that IT staff were in difficult position, did good job under pressure for cameras, zoom subscriptions, etc.

E Crosman: agrees, also good to maintain relations for research computing issues,

Babb: will draft statement for resolution, etc. for next time.

President's council

Babb: asked what was decision process for cancelling graduation? Also brought up bookstore. Both times met with sort of indifference.

Bookstore issues Rikel: characterize problem. Brought idea that if we delay for two weeks in. There is a notion afoot that we shouldn't have textbooks.

Does senate have thoughts on vendor change in bookstore, that shipping is expensive, and so forth?

Garcia: have a real issue with change, materials not submitted (even old inexpensive materials changed). Was not notified, either the process or whole thing should change.

Babb: was able to convey digest of that. Attempted to point out issue of academic freedom for professor to choose texts.

Medlock: soon they will ask for textbooks for fall.

Babb: Rikel said let me know, so maybe we should compile vignettes.

Ken Leitch: veteran students that need books thru bookstore has been a nightmare, has been *big* negative for those who must go to bookstore.

Babb: we need action, we need accounts to bring to Rikel. We need motion etc. to have action.

Clark: could King involve student governance committee? Knows student government is puzzled by use of downstairs space, difficulty of walking in to pick up book with no staff.

Babb: we are going to have to fact-find and have enough to not be toothless. Need a motion to ask. When does joint student committee meet? King: soon.

Motion: Move that the senate asks the Joint Student Faculty Governance Committee to investigate the impacts of vendor change in the bookstore and recommend action to the Senate.

(Motion by Craig, Medlock seconded)

Babb: ask for abstentions or objections in chat.

Erick: should there be a formal communication to faculty from Senate?

Babb: No, this should be with your department, do through Senate channel as a senator.

No objections to motion, motion passed.

Memo from Wendler

Babb: Going in to next time we need some strategy for response to memo. Will need to look at strategy in next meeting.

Medlock: Rosier view of pandemic from Wendler. His questions do address work/life balance, could address these.

Babb: Please come with suggestions for action, some kind of reply to memo.

Clark: talked to Mike Know. Know about disciplining of students, and he had had discipline actions through normal channels, and one suspension, etc.

Motion to adjourn: Medlock. Seconded, meeting adjourned.