

Meeting: Faculty Senate
 Date: April 6, 2021
 Time: 2:00 p.m.
 Location: Video Conference via Zoom
 Adjournment: 3:17 p.m.

Minutes

Julia Ballenger, Hongmei Jia, Robert Williams, Joshua Ege, Stephan Starnes, Omar Elariss, Chester Robinson, Jason Davis, Vipa Bernhardt, Dimitra Smith (Mary Jo Dondlinger), E. Mark Moreno, Tina Lancaster (Beth Bailey), Sandy Hayes, Christian Hempelmann, Yasemin Atinc, Brandon Randolph-Seng, Thomas Boucher, Brock Johnson, Jennifer Ashcraft, Matt Wood, Robert Rodriguez, Benton Pierce, Gracie Brownell, Zachary Palmer, Andrea Williams

<p align="center">Summary of Discussion</p>	<p align="center">Decision/Action</p>
<p>The March meeting minutes: Senator Moreno motioned to approve the March minutes, and Senator Palmer accepted the motion. March meeting minutes approved.</p> <p>No Guest Speakers were invited for the April Senate meeting.</p> <p>Some senators raised concerns regarding the “voluntary separation” program and the rather unpleasant approach towards senior faculty to encourage retirement. Faculty Senate would possibly like to discuss the implications of such encouragement for faculty morale.</p> <p>Reports from Committees:</p> <p>The Scheduling and Facilities: Committee Chair position is vacant. The duties include scheduling and facilities, including working with Cascade to upload the faculty senate agenda, minutes, meeting dates, and senators’ pictures. Anyone interested should contact President Ballenger. Senator Tina Lancaster volunteered to serve as the Chair of the scheduling and facilities committee.</p> <p>Awards Committee: Senator Brownell - Nothing to report.</p> <p>Academic Life: Senator Robinson reported that the “Cultural Competency” must be a process, and the committee has agreed on this. They want to be on the same page with the administration to be a daylong event with various keynote speakers or mandatory training. The concept will be more actionable starting Fall 2021.</p>	<p>The March minutes were approved.</p>

Also, the faculty senate wants to have a consistent definition of the university ranking for research. The faculty workload and the teaching loads will be further discussed to understand the faculty's responsibilities for teaching, research, and service.

Academic Practice: Senator Palmer brought up issues related to reporting plagiarism. The current process is complex. We want an online process, at minimum, a fillable PDF. Some senators brought up the same concern that the current approach is too lengthy and cumbersome and needs to be shortened—the Academic Practice Committee will review this process.

Budget: Nothing to report.

Curriculum: Nothing to report.

Organization of the senate: Senator Moreno discussed the voting process for the new president-elect and proposed revisions to the constitution.

President Ballenger called for nominations for the Faculty Senate President elections. There was one nomination; Senator Randolph-Seng nominated Senator Yasemin Atinc for the Faculty Senate President-Elect. Voting took place via Google docs. Yasemin Atinc was elected as the President-Elect.

President Ballenger informed the faculty senate that they would be receiving additional information regarding the Approval of Graduates for the Spring 2021 and May 2021 Senate meeting.

Senator Ballenger called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Senator Roberts made the motion to adjoin the meeting, and Senator Williams accepted the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 pm.