

Faculty Senate Meeting - 11/7/23

Attendees: Michael Oldham, Jason Davis, Julee Walker (Proxy - Eric Branscome), Adam Northam, Carlos Bertulani, Anil Chourasia, Ozum Yesiltas, Julia Ballenger, Jeannette Vaughn, Stephen Starnes, Rusty Fox, Benton Pierce, Carrie Klypchak, Tina Lancaster, Nikolay Sirakov, William Kuracina, Josephine Durkin, Christian Hempelmann, Tami Morton, Marta Mercado-Sierra (Proxy - Ahfiya Howard), Omar El Ariss, Hongmei Jia, Hunkar Gizem Yesilyurt, MaryJo Dondlinger, Zachary Palmer

Called to order- Yasmine Atinc - Time: 2:02pm

Welcome by Dr. Yasmine Atinc

Approval of October meeting minutes - Motion to approve Dr. Carrie Klypchak, Dr. Jason Davis second, motion carries

Guest Speaker

Dr. Eric Branscome - Department of Music

- * Transition department of music to school of music proposal
- * going through CourseLeaf Process and to be vetted by Faculty Senate and leadership staff
- * meeting with leadership and not heard any dissension as yet
- * Dr. Branscome discussed benefits of switching, including aligning with the university goals and missions, such as education, stronger recruiting, hiring more competitive faculty; 3 main justifications - 1) function as a school of music in spirit already; 2) realignment with R2 status to fit in with peer institutions; 3) opportunity for philanthropy to school vs dept is higher and more likely; 4) expansion of curriculum to add guitar and orchestral strings
- * Been working on the proposal for more than a decade with no resolution
- * requesting a final approval or denial from coordinating board
- * will not pull department out from under the college of fine arts, just create a school within the college
- * does not require substantial financial investment, and can be done without financial backing if needed
- * does not require changing accreditations
- * will not change CIP codes
- * Will go through the Program approval process through Faculty Senate Committee - Dr. Benton Pierce
- * Pending approval - Motion for Faculty Senate to endorse the proposal Dr. Carrie Klypchak, 2nd Zack Palmer, vote carries.

Dr. Benton Pierce - AI Committee

- * Need a well established syllabus statement
- * Asked to put in syllabi, and the intimation was that it was to be included, but the policy was a draft in reality
- * Asking to continue using the statement in Spring 2024

- * may not reflect all situations occurring in the classroom, but rather an attempt to layout guidelines
- * Discretion of the instructor must be taken into consideration, e.g., no usage by students to full usage
- * Plagiarism is not allowed, so usage of AI needs to be well documented
- * Need to establish policies, but moreover teach students how to use it correctly and effectively for careers post graduation
- * Dr. Nikolay Sirakov brought up issues regarding the “teaching” of AI as it is a very complex concept
- * Dr. MaryJo Dondlinger shared some insights from the student and faculty survey regarding usage
- * Question asked to Faculty Senate: Does a academic life and practice subcommittee need to address the statement and refine? Faculty Senate will provide input PRIOR to distribution to faculty for Spring 2024 syllabi
- * May lead to a larger discussion of reduction of information on the individual syllabus for instructors - could use links for common university policies and provide a signature of acknowledgment for having read the statements
- * Need a clear statement, including a general statement from Faculty Senate, crafted by the instructor to address their level of usage

Dr. MaryJo Dondlinger – Course Duration Change

- * Moving into all 16-week semester and away from the 8-week classes
- * Some colleges (College of Higher Education and Learning Technology) were not happy about the move due to having previous 8-week classes since 2012
- * Changing now would be disruptive to the course conversion process by Fall 2024.
- * 93% of surveyed students preferred 8-week classes
- * May hurt enrollment because of the change —> clear indication of detrimental effects
- * Can Faculty Senate endorse the unique nature of the college needs?
- * Motion: FS resolves that the faculty of departments should be considered the subject matter experts and primary decision makers regarding program curricular decisions, quality, and content, including course duration. Moved by Dr. Zack Palmer, 2nd Dr. Ballinger; Motion carries unanimously

General Discussions by Faculty Senate:

Why Spring 2024 start dates are offset. Student numbers will count in different biennial periods within the spring semester. Clarification that 2024 is a “Count year”

Dr. Jeanette Vaughan - COVID Statements

- * Discussion of COVID policy recommendations and Delta variant- recommendations for K-12 education students and Nursing students who were involved with K-12 students should mask up. Considered as recommendation rather than a policy statement from the University, but students must follow the requirements of the health care partners where students are working.

Dr. Zack Palmer - survey to send out to faculty to ask about critical issues that FS should be working on

* 2 questions - 1) what 3 issues are Faculty Senate critical - salary, workload, recruitment/retention?

2) anything else that Faculty Senate should be working on - open ended question

* Dr. Zack Palmer will send out a link for review by FS

Dr. Yasmine Atinc - Provost Committees Created

* Provost has formed 2 committees to investigate policies and how they are being implemented

* Dr. Julia Ballenger, Dr. Hongmei Jia, and Dr. Zack Palmer - Dept. Head Committee

* Dr. Marta Mercado-Sierra and Dr. Benton Pierce - Tenure and Promotion Committee

* At any level, all policies should be transparent and clear, especially considering the diversity of department policies

Senate Committee Reports

Dr. Stephen Starnes - nothing to report

Dr. Zack Palmer - continuing with survey work and AI statement; new members being recruited

Dr. William Kuracina - concerns about budgeting and how money is spent

Dr. Benton Pierce - many programs to approve by Monday, 11/13/2023

Dr. Hongmei Jia - 13 members on the Awards committee, will start collecting nominations - by November 17th. Piper Award earlier nomination due - must be approved by Faculty Senate and will be done through email.

Motion for dismissal: Dr. Jason Davis, Second by Dr. Hongmei Jia

3:37pm Adjournment