

Meeting: Faculty Senate
 Date: October 31, 2017
 Time: 2:01 pm
 Location: BA 290
 Adjournment: 2:54 pm

Minutes

Members present: Tim Wilson, Johanna Delgado-Acevedo, Stephen Starnes, Greg Lubiani, Sarah Mitchell, Charlotte Larkin, John Smith, Sean Anderson, Brandon Randolph-Seng, Daniel Kelly, Debra Mahoney, Kurtis Williams, Chad King, Rebecca Worley

Issue/Topic	Summary of Discussion	Decision/Action
Attendance	President King called attendance.	
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President King compiled questions about the Prospectus of the Liberal Arts School. The questions were sent to Provost Humphreys, he directed them to Dean Attardo, who directed them to the Director appointed to the proposed Liberal Arts School, Dr. Mark Menaldo. Dr. Menaldo said he was able to answer questions except the budget, and stated that it was not going to be ready for Senate’s meeting. He sent his CV and the positions that will be available. • Senator Randolph-Seng asked why we were having a meeting about the Prospectus if a director was already hired for the Liberal Arts School. President King answered that a director can be appointed without the School being approved. • President King asked senators to take five minutes to read the compilation of questions and answers for the prospectus. • President King asked Senator Williams to start the discussion. Senator Williams stated that the prospectus doesn't have measures to assess the new program, learning outcomes or identification of careers paths. • President King asked Senator Williams is there are any questions that he asked that were not answered. Senator Williams stated that is not clear how classes like for example the permanent seminar-Astronomy will be taught and how faculty members of the Physics 	

	<p>department that will have to teach Astronomy do not know about the creation of this new school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senator Kelly asked how this prospectus went from an Academic Program to a School. President King answered that the prospectus does not have to pass through Academic Program approval because the School do not belong to any existing College. • Senator Wilson asked why it couldn't start as an Academic Program in an existing College. • Senator Williams asked how the class cohorts would work. Are they going to be new groups of students creating new class section or the Liberal Arts cohort will add to the existing group of the Physics Department. How this will affect the course load of professors in small departments like Physics? • President King asked how the nursing program works, if is it independent. Senators Larkin and Senator Mahoney answered that the nursing program is part of a College, it is not independent. President King followed up asking how many professors the nursing school has and how many students, Senator Mahoney answered that they have 7 faculty members and approximately 150 students. • Senator Worley stated that it is not clear in the prospectus how they will be using faculty from other colleges that are already with full loads or overloaded. Senator Kelly clarified that the prospectus states that are voluntarily but it will be a problem. • Senator Larkin asked why there is no a clear definition of careers path for students in the proposed School, where they will find a job. Senator Worley mentioned that there is a market for liberal arts students. With this degree they develop critical thinking and communications skills that will help them find jobs. • Senator Wilson said that from a procedural perspective the prospectus seems rush. Senator Wilson presented the example of the creation of the Masters in Accounting; it took the faculty more than two years to get approved. • Senator Lubiani stated that how it is possible to have a prospectus of a new School without learning objectives. • Senator Kelly looked into a reference provided by Dr. 	
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Menaldo where a survey about communication skills preferred in the job environment is presented; Senator Kelly said that we should be teaching those skills across the whole University.

- President King asked senators to look at the examples provided of other universities that have similar Schools of Liberal Arts, in 4 of the 6 examples from Texas, Liberal Arts belong to and Honors Program/College.
- Senator Lubiani raised the question, if the proposed school will recruit new students for the university or if it will take students from other colleges. President King argues that if the recruited students come from other Colleges the net gain of students is zero; therefore the program will not have a value in terms of tuition money. Senator Wilson mentioned that when creating the Masters in Accounting they performed a study to address the question if the new masters in accounting will take students from the MBA program, the prospectus do not contemplate that.
- Senator Worley stated that she will always defend a Liberal Arts program and its role in the desperate need of students with critical thinking and communication skills but the execution of this prospectus is not good.
- Senator Randolph-Seng mentioned that the process is awfully rushed.
- Senator Kelly stated that the Music department has been asking for increased funding for many years, he asked how the university after budget cuts is going to support a new School.
- Senator Mitchell stated that she does not understand how the new School will be able to find faculty members from another colleges where most professors are already overloaded.
- Senator Smith mentioned that if the university wants to move in the direction of submitting this prospectus it would imply a complete redefinition of the curriculum that is not part of it at the present state.
- Senator Worley stated that our university has already a liberal arts program under the College of Humanities, Social Sciences and Arts, a general studies program

	<p>under University College and a Masters in Liberal Arts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senator Kelly mentioned that under the proposal, students will declare a minor or another major in the junior year, this does not appear to line up with the 120 credit hours for a four-year degree university. • Senator Starnes argued that we are asked to evaluate a prospectus that has only 20% of the information available. Senator Starnes also asked which Department will take credit for the class that the professors are teaching, the department which the professor belongs or the proposed School. President King added that based on Senator Starnes question, how the proposed School will generate revenue. • Senator Anderson presented the motion to respectfully request additional information about the proposed school, until such time the Faculty Senate will postpone the decision. The faculty Senate request answers for the following questions: (1) What are the Student Learning Outcomes of the proposed School? (2) What job market analysis has been conducted to support the need and the creation of the School? (3) What is the degree plan for the 4-year/120 hours degree? (4) What career paths have been identified that the School will suffice? (5) How the students will be recruit/what will guarantee that students will not migrate from other Colleges? (6) How course sections will be created/how liberal arts cohorts' classes will be develop without interfering with the existing offer? (7) How the proposed school will be independent of the other Colleges? (8) How current faculty workload will be affected? Senator Worley seconded the motion. 	<p>Motion presented by Senator Anderson, Senator Worley seconded the motion.</p>
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