

Faculty Senate Minutes

Tuesday, July 18, 2023, 3:10 p.m., via Zoom

Senate Roster for 2022-2023:

Kurtis Adams (MUSC), Haley Albright (CHEM), Robert Anthony (SCCJ), James Broomall (HIST), Court Campany (BIOL), Larry Daily (PSYC), Rhonda Donaldson (LIB), Tuncer Gocmen (ECON), Karen Green (SOWK), Max Guirguis (PSCI), Osman Guzide (CME), Melissa Hall (RSES), Mary Hancock (NURS), Heidi Hanrahan (ENGL/LANG), Belinda Mitchell (EDUC), David Modler (ART), Sytil Murphy (DEPS), Robert Richardson (BADM), Cindy Vance (ACCT), Kevin Williams (COMM), Max Guirguis (ACF).

Officers: Heidi Hanrahan (President), Belinda Mitchell (Secretary), Larry Daily (Parliamentarian)

Special Meeting called by Senators

Called to order 3:10pm

Kurtis Adams	MUSC	Present
Haley Albright	CHEM	Absent
Robert Anthony	SCCJ	Present
James Broomall	HIST	Present
Courtney Campany	BIOL	Present
Larry Daily	PSYC	Present
Rhonda Donaldson	LIB	Present
Tuncer Gocmen	ECON	Present
Karen Green	SOWK	Present
Max Guirguis	PSCI	Absent
Osman Guzide	CME	Present
Melissa Hall	RSES	Absent
Mary Hancock	NURS	Present
Heidi Hanrahan	ENGL/LANG	Present
Belinda Mitchell	EDUC	Present
David Modler	ART	Present
Sytil Murphy	DEPS	Present
Robert Richardson	BADM	Absent
Cindy Vance	ACCT	Present
Kevin Williams	COMM	Present

I. Special Guest President Hendrix

President Hendrix made a presentation about the university's financial position. She began by apologizing for the position we are in, and then explained the discrepancy between the last several years of financial forecasting vs. what was revealed in the fourth quarter of this fiscal year. Below is a summary of the presentation:

- In 2021, Shepherd entered into an agreement with CMTA to begin an energy saving project. This agreement involved a \$6 million dollar loan—costs that would be recovered (and then some) in energy savings. Staff inadvertently failed to distinguish between cash assets for general operations and these restricted funds, and that money was

inappropriately counted towards days of cash on hand that made our overall budget look better than it was.

- When the reality was revealed, Shepherd's days of cash dropped to 32 (low enough to cause the HEPC to reach out).
- Though Shepherd's uptick in enrollment bucked national trends, it did not add enough revenue to significantly impact our structural deficit—a deficit that we would have had to address *even without the cash flow problem*.
- We must act and reduce our budget by \$3 million this year and an additional \$3 million next year.
- We have already identified roughly \$2.13 million for this year, mostly through staff positions eliminated. Other cost savings will come from the closing of the Martinsburg Center and Academic Restructuring. The restructuring/right-sizing was on Provost Spencer's to-do list, well before we knew about the cash flow problem. In other words, this was coming no matter what.
- Academic programs will also be reviewed within the timeline provided by Provost Tudor in his email on July 14.
- The President and others continue to seek revenue-generating opportunities.

President Hendrix then answered many, many questions from senators and other attendees. She repeatedly acknowledged how hard it is/will be for us all. She invited faculty to contact her with questions and concerns.

II. Special Guest Interim Provost Rob Tudor

Provost Tudor answered many, many questions from senators and other attendees. The following are the topics of the majority of the questions:

- Concerns around dept./school/program identity for those depts./schools being combined.
- Concerns around representation on committees, etc., for departments/schools being split up or combined.
- Concerns about the very tight timelines for implementing changes, chair/director elections, letting go of adjuncts, and finding courses for faculty who have had their release time decreased.
- Concerns/questions about the process for naming deans of new/re-formed colleges.
- Concerns about cuts happening at the deans' level that mirrored those at the faculty level.

Provost Tudor welcomed specific feedback about restructuring. He encouraged faculty to contact him directly and he welcomed the feedback.

III. Academic Restructuring

After Provost Tudor left, the discussion continued. Senate members reiterated and expressed many of same concerns as mentioned to both President Hendrix and Interim Provost Tudor. The Senate will continue to communicate/work via email.

Senate President Hanrahan will follow up with Provost Tudor about the pressing concerns re: representation on committees, etc., along with the requests on the two resolutions from the June 26 meeting.

Next Special Meeting: Monday, August 7 at 3:00 via Zoom