

Faculty Senate Minutes

Monday, August 7, 2023, 3:00 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	Present
Robert Anthony	SCCJ	Present
James Broomall	HIST	Present
Courtney Campany	BIOL	Present
Larry Daily	PSYC	Present
Rhonda Donaldson	LIB	Present
Tuncer Gocmen	ECON	Absent
Karen Green	SOWK	Present
Max Guirguis	PSCI	Absent
Osman Guzide	CME	Present
Melissa Hall	RSES	Present
Mary Hancock	NURS	Present
Heidi Hanrahan	ENGL/LANG	Present
Belinda Mitchell	EDUC	Present
David Modler	ART	Present
Sytil Murphy	DEPS	Present
Robert Richardson	BADM	Present
Cindy Vance	ACCT	Present
Kevin Williams	COMM	Present

I. Guest: Dr. Scott Barton, VP for Finance and Administration

Dr. Scott Barton, VP for Finance and Administration addressed questions about the University's financial situation.

- He explained again that we discovered in May that a large portion of cash on hand was restricted for a purpose: the CMTA project. When that payment came due, our cash on hand decreased dramatically.
- He also addressed a question about why auditors did not notice this, he answered that he isn't exactly sure. The financial statements by the auditors read correctly, but he would have expected a footnote saying that the CMTA funds were restricted

- Dr. Barton also stated that he has heard rumors of financial malfeasance. That is not what happened.
- In answer to the “how did this happen?” set of questions, he explained that we have an antiquated computer network and system and processes, in his words “challenging tools”. Being able to produce financial data in a timely manner is difficult, and right now, we are always months behind. This issue is not about a lack of financial transparency, but rather we are working as quickly as we can with the tools we have.
- Dr. Barton explained that there is a plan to update the tools and our technological infrastructure. The firewall has been updated. The next large project is contingent on deferred maintenance money coming from the state. There have been four projects submitted to HEPC. Funding is anticipated at end of Aug./beginning of Sept. The network is designed and ready to go; it’s a matter of procuring the equipment. If funded for September, this plan will complete the whole campus in summer 2024 (estimate). We will go from a 1 gig to a 10 gig network. This update will allow for new tools and Shepherd will be able to get a business intelligence tool that will update itself every night.
- He was then asked: How far along are we in cutting 3 million for this year? His answer: As of this morning, we are about \$30,000 shy of the \$3 million goal.
- When asked about the next \$3 million that we need to cut next year, Dr. Barton replied that there are many factors to consider: enrollment numbers, etc. The number will continue to be fluid. Right now, we are continuing to address the current \$3 million challenge.

II. Guest: Dr. Rob Tudor, Interim Provost and VPAA

- Dr. Tudor explained that the academic restructuring saves about \$220K, which is about \$50K less than the initial model/plan from mid-June. That 50K added back in comes from adjustments to stipends and release time.
- He was asked about the structure of the Faculty Senate starting this year, he shared that, according to University Counsel, the current Senate would be able to serve out its entire term (through June 2024). In Spring of 2024 new senators will be elected and could go from 20 departments represented to 10 departments/schools if we adhere to the new proposed model.
- Dr. Tudor then read through the Senates motions sent to him last month and he agreed with all points in the motion.
- Dr. Tudor has made a recommendation to the President regarding the Interim Dean for the College Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. The question of who will oversee graduate studies is still undecided, though Sherry Donovan will run the Graduate Council.
- Dr. Tudor discussed the Academic Prioritization plan. Templates are being built for each program based on HEPC new model for program review. Questions will be included for departments/schools to answer to get a better understanding of their programs. These documents will be due October 1st and decisions about the programs will happen October 15.

III. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes for the following senate meetings were approved: 4.17.23, 6.26.23, 7.18.23

IV. Continued Discussion: Academic Restructuring

- The Senate discussed restructuring and other general concerns.
- There was discussion that the radio station was being cut effective immediately but Senate Presidents sought clarification and expressed the following: I do want to provide a clarification of one matter that came up in the meeting: though there will be changes/cuts

to funding for the radio station, the conversation is still ongoing. There is energy from multiple parties to maintain at least an online presence for the station.

- Discussion was centered around what work the senate has to do in the coming year...Where do we want to be? In the coming year, the Senate will work to address changes to committees in the aftermath of restructuring.

V. Announcements

- CEC meeting 8.8.23 at 1:00, via Zoom
- BOG Finance Committee meeting 8.9.23 at 1:00
- BOG meeting (Friday, August 18 at 3:00 in person in the Storer Ballroom and via Zoom).
- The Senate will meet again (in person!) on August 28 at 3:10 in the Blue-Gray Room. Moving forward, we will alternate between in-person and Zoom meetings.

Adjourn: 4:10pm