

Faculty Senate Minutes

Monday, October 2, 2023, 3:10 p.m., Blue-Gray Room

Senate Roster for 2023-2024: (those not present are highlighted)

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), Heidi Hanrahan (ENGL/LANG), Brenda Johnston (NURS), Belinda Mitchell (EDUC), David Modler (ART), Sytil Murphy (DEPS), Robert Richardson (BADM), Steven Grives (MUSC), Cindy Vance (ACCT), Kevin Williams (COMM), Max Guirguis (ACF).

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

Meeting Schedule (2022-2023): 8/28/23, 9/18/23, 10/2/23, 10/16/23, 11/6/23, 12/4/23, 2/5/24, 2/19/24, 3/4/24, 3/18/23, 4/1/24, 4/15/24

I. Approval of September 18, 2023 Minutes approved

II. Committee Reports

Assembly Committees and Representatives

A. Admissions & Credits (Senator Johnston) -first meeting went well; reviewed 5 petitions

B. Curriculum & Instruction (Senator Daily) -no report

C. Core Curriculum (Tim Nixon) -see appendix

D. Advisory Council of Faculty (Senator Guirguis) -no additions to written report

Faculty Senate Committees and Representatives

E. Library Liaison (Senator Donaldson) -keep an eye on the lib guides for some changes. Reference desk is moving to public services desk.

F. Professional Development, Faculty Salary, and Welfare (Senator Anthony) -announcement coming out this week, and look for updates on the website. There will be some changes in how information is collected for sabbaticals.

G. Scholarship & Awards (Senators Vance and Murphy) -figuring out who reps are and then will call a meeting

H. Senate Bylaws (Senators Anthony, Guirguis, and Mitchell) -no report

I. Washington Gateway (Senator Modler) -no report

External Committee Representatives

J. Calendar Committee (Senator Gocmen) -no report

K. Diversity & Equity Committee (Senator Hall) -no report

L. Enrollment Management Committee (Senator Broomall) -no report

M. Graduate Council (Senator Williams) -no report

N. Student Success Committee (Senator Campany) -no report

O. Technology Oversight Committee (Senator Guzide) -no report

Other Committees

P. Budget Advisory Council (Senator Campany, Senator Williams, Senator Modler) -no report

Q. Internationalization Advisory Council (Senator Modler) -no report

R. Threat Assessment Task Force (Senator Albright and Senator Murphy) -no report

III. Old Business: Committees in the Aftermath of Restructuring/Possible Strategy for Moving Forward (Senator Hanrahan)

Hanrahan proposes that senators from each college work together to gather feedback about this from our colleges by our first November senate meeting. Daily suggested we also get feedback from the current

committee members (C&I, A&C, Core Curriculum). Senators will make sure these discussions are on their college agendas so that October meetings go forward, even without other agenda items.

IV. New Business: Proposed Change to Administrative Structure re: Financial Aid (see 9/22/23 email from Alan Perdue) there was a consensus that this change makes sense for several reasons, but some concern around student service; this restructure would move financial aid from a unit organized around student recruitment/retention/service to one without much direct interaction with students. Senators are curious about steps leadership is taking to address this and ensure a continued student-focused approach.

V. Incompletes and Course Completion Policies (Senator Albright) faculty concerns about when to agree to incompletes, and some would like to see more specific guidelines. Others think the handbooks and catalog are clear, and that there is a need for broad language to allow for discipline-specific approaches. Departments may create additional internal policy, consistent with university policy, if they believe that would be helpful.

VI. Financial Issues Related to Textbooks/Class Supplies (Senator Albright) Faculty encounter students who are unable to access course materials due to financial hardship. Senators offered suggestions: consider last dollar fund and reach out to Kelly Hart on the students' behalf. Consider IncludeED (packaging course materials with the course tuition/fees), consider charging course/lab fees so students pay when they register, and the materials can be purchased by the department.

VII. Concerns about classroom enrollment minimums. Invite Provost Tudor to talk with the senate about rationale behind summer course changes and perhaps general increase in enrollment caps. Specifically, faculty want to better understand the rationale for increasing minimum enrollment beyond what is needed to cover course expenses.

VIII. Announcements

A. Board of Governors Meetings Schedule (4:15 p.m., Storer Ballroom of Student Center)

- 10/10/23 (meeting added after agenda items were moved from September meeting)
- 11/9/23
- 12/14/23
- 2/15/24
- 4/18/24
- 6/6/24

B. President's Lecture Series Schedule (6:30 p.m., Byrd CHE)

- 10/23/23: Stephen Hall, Certified mentor – International Business, "China's access to U.S. technology: Who is winning?"
- 11/27/23: Christian Jorgensen, Legal Counsel at the American Red Cross-National Headquarters, "The Crucible of Law and War: International Humanitarian Law and the Preservation of Humanity during Armed Conflict"

Appendix: Core Curriculum Committee Report

Tim Nixon, the Core Curriculum Committee Chair, met with Provost Tudor, the Registrar, and several other individuals on Friday of last week to discuss how Shepherd can become a more desirable next step for students who have finished a two-year degree at area community colleges. The Provost asked a group of stakeholders to meet to discuss this issue, and one of the outcomes of that discussion is that he will be on the agenda at the Core Curriculum Committee's October meeting.