

Faculty Senate Minutes
Regular Meeting
Monday, December 02, 2024 at 3:10 p.m., Blue Gray Room

Attendance:

Rob Anthony (CAHSS at large), Joshua Beck (CBRE at large), Denis Berenschot (EHML), Courtney Campany (NAPS), Craig Cline (SABS), Chris Coltrin (CACT), Larry Z. Daily (CAHSS at large), Rhonda Donaldson (LIB), David Gordon (CAHSS at large), Jeff Groff (STEMN at large), , Melissa Hall (RSES), Brenda Johnston (NURS), Stacey Kendig (CBRE at large), Sytil Murphy (STEMN at large), Tracy Nichols (EDUC), Laura Robertson (STEMN at large), Austin Showen (MUSC), Cindy Vance (CBRE at large), Jennifer Yablonsky (CAHSS at large),

Officers: Larry Daily (President), Brenda Johnston (Secretary), Craig Cline (Parliamentarian)

Excused: Max Guirguis (ACF), Amanda Mandzik (BAEF), Osman Guzide (CSME)

Guest: Wendy Barack, Holly Frye, President Hendrix, Rob Tudor, VP Barton, Representatives from Student Government

Approval of November 18, 2024 Minutes: Approved

II. Department Chair Compensation (President Hendrix, Interim Provost Tudor, Vice President Barton)

The questions posed by the Senate regarding a need for clarification of the roles of chairs and directors and differences between schools, departments, and colleges were addressed by Interim Provost Dr. Tudor. He reminded the Senate of previous actions by faculty and administration from 2017 to 2019 that specifically addressed these questions, and it was unclear why the topic was unresolved. It was agreed that faculty, chair, and director workload calculations would help determine each department's actual needs, and this is a work in progress. Concerns about communication channels and which personnel should be involved in those conversations were expressed. Discussion ensued about how the 2023 restructuring impacted faculty and chair workloads and the challenges associated with providing adequate compensation and other incentives. Senators are concerned about an inability to fill Chair vacancies if they are not adequately compensated. The ongoing difficulties related to department variability and the lack of knowledge regarding funding availability remain challenging. Future directions will focus on improving communications within the schools and including the current Deans and Chairs. An additional step could include creating a smaller group to work on developing definitions of schools, departments, and colleges.

Withdrawals on Transcripts: Dr. Tudor provided a handout that described the benefits of excluding Ws from student transcripts. He pointed out that students have a greater chance of success, and we at Shepherd University have an opportunity to increase and/or maintain enrollment. Similar institutions, including WVU and colleges in MD and VA, already have this policy in place. Discussed how advising would be impacted without knowledge of a student's prior history of withdrawals. A&C is having ongoing discussions about this proposal, which will continue.

Senator Groff made a motion to endorse the proposal to remove W's as it applies to financial aid and satisfactory academic progress from transfer student transcripts. The motion was seconded. Motion carried.

Student Government: (President and Vice President Paul and Jack of Student Government)

This group discusses the proposal to merge the Student Academic Enrichment and Student Success Center. As student body representatives, they brought letters from SU students stating that merging departments would dilute services and cause undue stress for students. A suggestion was made to survey the student body to elicit more significant student input about the proposed merger. Students also expressed a desire for greater transparency and participation in decisions that impact students.

V. Committee Reports

Assembly Committees and Representatives

- A. Admissions & Credits (Senator Nichols) no report
- B. Curriculum & Instruction (Senator Cline) no report
- C. Core Curriculum (Monica Larson) no report
- D. Interdisciplinary Curricular Committee (vacant) no report
- E. Advisory Council of Faculty (Senator Guirguis) no report

Faculty Senate Committees and Representatives

- F. Library Liaison (Senator Donaldson) no report
- G. Professional Development, Faculty Salary, and Welfare (Senator Anthony) no report
- H. Scholarship & Awards (Senators Vance and Murphy) no report
- I. Senate Bylaws (Senator Cline) no report
- J. Washington Gateway (Senator Coltrin) no report
- K. Honors Advisory Board (Director Brasher) no report

External Committee Representatives

- L. Calendar Committee (Senator Groff) no report
- M. Diversity & Equity Committee (Senator Hall) no report
- N. Enrollment Management Committee (Senators Showen and Campany) no report
- O. Graduate Council (Senator Coltrin) no report
- P. Student Success Committee (Senator Campany) no report
- Q. Technology Oversight Committee (Senator Guzide) no report

Other Committees

- R. Budget Advisory Council (Senator Campany, Senator Berenschot, Senator Robertson) no report
- S. Internationalization Advisory Council (Senator Yablonsky) no report
- T. Threat Assessment Task Force (Senators Yablonsky and Murphy) no report

VI. Updates/Progress on Senate Actions/Discussions

Discussion of Proposals Concerning Student Academic Enrichment and Student Success Center: Holly Frye expressed ongoing concerns about keeping the programs separate. Amy Dewitt reiterated the fiscal advantages associated with the merger. The Senate is requested to endorse moving forward or rejecting the proposal. Senator Showen made a motion to request more information about administrative prioritization, including the current merger proposal, specifically regarding a timeline, budget, and leadership. Motion carried.

- B. Discussion of Academic Dishonesty Policies and Processes
- C. Course approval process update: Senator Daily has met with Dr. Tudor and is awaiting follow-up.
- D. Quantifying faculty workload: This will be discussed at our next meeting
- E. Removal of W's from incoming transfer student transcripts: See previous discussion.

VII. New Business

- A. Who owns BA language requirement
- B. Committee membership

VIII. Announcements

- A. Board of Governors Meetings Schedule (Storer Ballroom of Student Center)
 - September 12, 2024 4:15 p.m.
 - November 14, 2024 4:15 p.m.
 - December 17, 2024 4:15 p.m. **NEW DATE**
 - February 13, 2025 4:15 p.m.
 - April 17, 2025 4:15 p.m.
 - June 12, 2025 4:15 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned: 17:18