

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE 2014-15 UNIVERSITY SENATE
Thursday, November 20, 2014

Members Present: 57

Members Absent: 12

1. The meeting was called to order by the chairperson of the University Senate, Amy Harden, at 4:00 p.m.

Roll Call was taken by initialing the roster located at the entrance to LB 125.

Members Present: S. Aegisdittor, A. Beane, R. Bernot, J. Bolin, B. Brey, S. Byrum, B. Canada, D. Caristi, B. Chang, J. Chapman, M. Chiuni, C. Corbin, E. Crawford, J. Fitzgerald, J. Forbey, J. Gruver, M. Hanley, A. Harden, M. Holtzman, A. Hopper, J. Huff, Z. Huffman, T. Jitpaiboon, J. Johnson, J. Jones-Hall, L. Julian, K. Kessler, T. King, K. Koch, R. Kovac, K. Kreamelmeyer, B. Kubel, I. Livshits, C. Luchs, M. Maggiotto, S. McFadden, E. Nesson, C. Pak, S. Pattison, L. Pellerin, S. Rice-Snow, D. Singh, C. Thomas, K. Thurman, D. Wheeler, R. Wijesinghe, N. Wilkey

Substitutes: Shannon Staton for A. Brown, Greg Morrison for B. Byers, Ron Hicks for M. Hill, David Call for J. Jemiolo, James Flowers for T. Mahfouz, Brian Meekin for C. Munchel, James Rediger for L. O'Hara, Michelle Johnson for J. Stroh, Mary Jo Germani for B. Wagner, Yaron Ayalon for S. Zhuk

Members Absent: E. Agnew, P. Buis, J. Christman, B. Collins, R. Davis, R. Engle, P. Ferguson, J. Hesser, L. Lehman, T. Lewers, N. Perera, L. Sullivan

A motion was made and seconded (Thurman/Hanley) to approve the minutes of October 23, 2014.

The following suggestions were submitted for revision of the minutes:

Under 7. Question and Answer Period, revise to:

Provost Terry King presented a brief history of the policy on Chronic Unsatisfactory Performance. Examples of similar policies at other institutions were reviewed by UPT and mentioned (available at individual university websites). Discussion ensued. A faculty member asked the Provost if he had sources to substantiate this statement. The Provost responded that he did not. He also stated that some of these policies were in process and he did not have all the details. The Provost's presentation and the policy under review were shared with Senate membership at a later date.

Under 9. A. Policy on Grades and Attendance, revise to:

- A. Policy on Grades and Attendance (University Senate Agenda, 10/23/14, Enclosure #4)

A motion was made and seconded (Jones-Hall/Thurman) to place on the floor for discussion.

John McPherson, Director of Scholarships and Financial Aid, and Cindi Marini, chair of the Admissions and Credits Committee, were in attendance at today's meeting to answer questions.

A faculty member suggested that, if the average grade awarded at Ball State is a B, reference to C as the average grade in the policy is dishonest. Another faculty member reminded the faculty member this is not the issue for discussion. The faculty member stated that since the grading policy was on the senate floor for discussion, the entire policy was open for discussion.

John McPherson confirmed that Ball State is not required to take attendance; however, for federal student aid purposes, the university is required to document a student's attendance for financial aid.

Regarding the policy on grades, item 1.9, the Miller College of Business faculty do not have authority of issuing a W. In other colleges, a student can still withdraw after the withdrawal deadline with the instructor and dean's approval. In MCOB, the advisor acts with the authority of the dean, making the advisor the dean's signatory.

The motion to approve the policy on grades and attendance, carried.

2. Announcements

Items I. A. (Next Scheduled Meetings), I.B. (Report from Ad Hoc Committee on Final Grade Submission, Enclosure #1), were reviewed by the Senate membership. Item I.B. will go into effect this semester.

3. Council/Committee/Student Senate Reports

- A. Governance and Elections Committee – Chin-Sook Pak, Chair. Chin-Sook reported the committee met on November and discussed and approved following:
- Policy on Chronic Unsatisfactory Performance – after reviewing the language in the current Faculty and Professional Personnel Handbook (FPPH), under the section, “Termination of a Tenured Faculty or Tenured Professional personnel’s Appointment is Proposed,” the committee approved to add this category as one of the causes for termination. Once the Faculty Salary and Benefits Committee finalizes the draft on how it will be determined by each academic unit and the process, the entire document will be forwarded to the Faculty Council and the Senate for discussion. It was confirmed that unsatisfactory performance process does not automatically lead to termination.
 - Policy for the reorganization of academic units – the committee examined current language in the FPPH concerning the process for formation of a new college and reorganization of academic units. Following discussion, the committee reached consensus on the interpretation of the steps required. Once the proposals for reorganization is submitted (which can be originated by faculty or administrators), all affected faculty will vote on the proposal. The committee will further discuss the voting process. The role of the senate will be in an advisory capacity to the Board of Trustees, the President and the Provost.
 - Constitutional amendments and organizational structure and committee system – in order to clarify the interpretation of what is included in the constitution, the committee reached consensus that the structure of committees is separate from the constitution; therefore, changes to the committee will not be considered constitutional amendment. After approval by the appropriate council(s) and ultimately the university senate, the revision of committee membership and responsibilities will be in effect, alleviating the 60-day timeframe necessary to forward to all departments/areas for vote.
- B. Faculty Council – Michael Hanley, Chair. Michael reported the council met on October 30 and approved the membership and responsibilities of the Professional Education Committee and the policy on midterm grades. The Council meets again on December 4.
- C. University Council – Jennifer Jones-Hall, Chairperson. Jennifer reported the council met on November 6. Mitch Isaacs, Retention and Graduation Specialist for First Time Freshman, gave a brief presentation and there were great reports from all committees under the council’s purview. The next meeting is January 8; President Ferguson will be the guest at that meeting.
- D. Campus Council – Kevin Thurman, Chair. Kevin reported the council met on November 13 and approved Student Senate Resolutions, one regarding Step Up and Speak Up and the other endorsing the addition of more interactive learning spaces around campus. Mike Spillman, chair of the Undergraduate Education Committee, was also present to discuss the policy on midterm grades. The council approved this new policy.
- E. Student Senate – Bryan Kubel, President of the Student Senate, reported the launch of Cardinal Kitchen on January 7, 2015. It will be located in the Multicultural Center. Several student organizations are currently conducting food drives to stock the pantry.

4. Report by Chairperson of Senate – Amy Harden (University Senate Agenda, 11/20/14, Enclosure #2)

The GANTT Chart was reviewed by the chair of the senate. There were no questions.

5. Questions Directed to the President

President Ferguson was attending the Ball State Foundation Board of Directors meeting today and tomorrow and could not attend today’s university senate meeting.

6. Question and Answer Period

Provost Terry King was available for questions from the membership of the senate.

A member questioned whether exam services would remain open since gradebook is not available. Gradebook had the capability to transfer scantron scores to gradebook for students to see their results. Marilyn Buck replied this continues to be available. This would be very helpful for their particular department.

The Provost replied that the old technology of Scantron does not coincide with the new technology of Blackboard. He thought Vice President Repp had already spoken at length with their department. (The senate member reported their department did not feel they received enough information or alternatives, hence bringing it to the senate today.) The Provost added the issue is not the cost of the machines, but the cost of paper that is necessary to utilize Scantron and the other is how to import this old technology into the new system.

Vice President Repp will be invited to the next meeting of the university senate (January 22, 2015); however, this does not take care of their concerns for this semester since this is the last meeting for the fall.

A member was concerned about forcing faculty to use Vizi for introductory courses. They believe it is an undue cost for students and affects academic freedom.

The Provost reported they want to use Vizi for more introductory courses. They believe it will be helpful where there is significant DWF issues. Math 125 faculty are not required to use, but some do. Vizi was created by faculty members here at Ball State. The manner in which products are priced make it comparable or less expensive than a book. Whatever book (must be an e-book) is selected, Vizi and the book come together.

Regarding academic freedom, faculty are not being forced to use it. It is being made available to them. One way to look at it is that we have been struggling in making students succeed in these courses and we're seeing positive results.

Another area of confusion and concern is about grade inflation at the university. Psych 100 has been a suggested course in which we give too many elevated grades. If this is the case, Vizi will increase grades. A C in the class means they are capable to going on to the next course. The Provost has no problems with students having better student outcome.

A member mentioned the concern by his college regarding the new hotel. It seems faculty are unaware of these things after work has been secured from the outside, even though there are areas within the university in which work could be utilized.

The Provost responded he knew little about the project at this point. An architect has been selected, but there has been no design. There are several members of the Board of Trustees who will be meeting to discuss this issue. There is interest in involving faculty with the business aspect of the university (practice what we teach). He should have more information next week and encouraged the faculty member to email him concerning the issue.

7. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

8. New Business

B. Midterm Evaluation of Student Performance (University Senate Agenda, 11/20/14, Enclosure #3)

A motion was made and seconded (Thurman/Hopper) to place on the floor for discussion.

Michael Spillman, chair of the Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC), was present at today's meeting to answer questions.

There was no discussion and the motion carried to approve the policy.

C. Membership and Responsibilities of the Professional Education Committee (PEC) (University Senate Agenda, 11/20/14, Enclosure #4)

A motion was made and seconded (Thurman/Hopper) to place on the floor for discussion.

There was no discussion and the motion carried to revise the membership and responsibilities of the PEC.

9. Other Items

There were no other items.

10. Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded (Caristi/Thurman) to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Pellerin, Secretary