

MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE 2016-17 UNIVERSITY SENATE  
Thursday, September 1, 2016

Members Present:

Members Absent:

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

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

Members Present: S. Aegisdottir, E. Agnew, M. Baker, A. Batres, R. Bernot, C. Bohanan, M. Chiuni, J. Christman, A. Crow, C. Dodd, J. Fitzgerald, B. Frankel, Kl. Gayes, J. Ghezzi, J. Griffith, L. Helms, M. Hill, J. Hopwood, J. Jacobson, J. Jemiolo, T. Jitpaiboon, K. Kessler, J. Khubchandani, K. Koch, R. Kovac, R. Kraus, A. Kuban, M. Lee, I. Livshits, C. Luchs, T. Mahfouz, K. McCauliff, S. McFadden, J. McKinney, M. Moore, R. Morris, C. Pak, S. Pattison, N. Phillips, E. Riddle, K. Ritchey, D. Roof, S. Shin, J. Sponseller, Z. Taylor, H. Wang, K. Warren-Gordon, K. Webber, J. Wells, R. Wijesinghe, S. Wu, A. Yen, S. Zhuk, E. Zygmunt

Substitutes: Marc Devine for J. Becker, Branden Jones for B. Loughlin, Connie McIntosh for C. Thomas, Chad Kinsella for D. Wheeler

Members Absent: J. Ballesteros, L. Brannick, J. Chapman, T. King, C. Marlow, L. Mauer, K. Nicholson, K. Rosenberger

The chairperson of the senate, Kourtland Koch, introduced David Pearson, who will serve as Parliamentarian for the academic year. Dave encouraged members to not “call for the question,” as this a motion to stop debate and requires a two-thirds majority vote to pass it. The chair should sense the mood of the room and then ask, “having heard no new information, are you ready to vote?”

Kourtland reported he will be meeting with colleges throughout the year to glean information from them and how the senate can be of assistance to them.

A motion was made and seconded (Mahfouz/Kessler) to approve the minutes of April 28, 2016.

The motion carried.

2. Announcements

- A. Reaffirmation of Standing Rules (University Senate Agenda, 9/1/16, Enclosure #1)

A motion was made and seconded (Khubchandani/Kessler) to approve the Standing Rules.

The motion carried.

Items I.B. (Statement on conservation of paper), I. C. (Schedule of Meetings in the University Governance System-Enclosure #2), I. D., (Next scheduled meetings), I. F. (Approval of Senate Actions), I.G. (Notice of Change in Office/Department Name), were reviewed by the Senate membership.

- B. Overview of Senate System – Karen Kessler, Vice Chair, University Senate

Karen reviewed the structure of the university governance system for the members of the senate.

3. Recognition of Deaths

There was a moment of silence to recognize the deaths of Philip E. Ballou, Judith McCoy Barnes, James R. (Bob) Barnhart, Velma C. Edwards, Kenneth L. Foster, Richard Owen Hakes, Patricia J. McCallister, Truman G. Pope, John Seidel, Raymond White, and John K. Wright.

4. Committee Reports

- A. Governance and Elections Committee – Karen Kessler, Chair. Karen reported the committee cancelled their meeting for today because all members are not in place. Faculty Council and University Council will conduct their elections prior to the next meeting, scheduled for October 6.
- B. Faculty Council – Tarek Mahfouz, Chairperson. Tarek reported the executive committee of the council met and appointed members to the senate councils and committees. Their next meeting is scheduled for September 8.

- C. University Council – No report.
- D. Campus Council – No report.
- E. Student Government Association – James Wells, President. James reported the SGA is ready to begin the school year. They are working hard in getting the word out for membership to SGA. They are working on their current platform points and assisted the Residence Hall Association and Student Life on the Dear World Campaign. The first Town Hall meeting was held last night in the Student Center, which mainly dealt with transparency concerns with the Board of Trustees. Given the diversity issues across the nation and over the course of the summer, this allowed the students the opportunity to voice their concerns and SGA listened to their ideas and issues. He believes a compromise/working situation was developed where we can bring a resolve to most of the issues, mainly pertaining to transparency, as well as what channels those issues are to be directed.

The first meeting of Student Senate is Wednesday, September 7, at 3:15pm. This is the first meeting where there will be an election for freshman and graduate seats. They will be gearing up for spring semester, as well. There will be restructuring of the finance committee and a restructure of the entire judicial court. The constitution was revised last year and was approved; however, it created some problems throughout the system. They are working on restructuring a smoother process.

5. Report by Chairperson of Senate – Kourtland Koch (University Senate Agenda, 9/1/16, Enclosure #3)

Kourtland reported several items in the senate system, but the senate agenda committee will be working toward completing these issues by the end of the fall semester.

6. Questions Directed to the Interim President

Bob Morris, Acting Provost and Executive Vice President, was present in the absence of Interim President, Terry King. He reported on the following:

- Currently, there are four dean’s searches underway – Sciences and Humanities (CSH), Teachers College (TC), Architecture and Planning (CAP) and Honors College. There is criteria in place for the membership of the search committees:
  - o The chair of the committee is a faculty member or higher and outside the college;
  - o One member is appointed by the president.

The chairs of the four search committees are: Dave Ferguson (TC), Jen Bott (CSH), Michael O’Hara (Honors College), and Charlene Alexander (CAP). The president’s designees are: (getting name from Charlene Alexander) (CAP), Bruce Geelhood (Honors College), Carolyn Kapinus (TC), and Nichole Etchison (CSH).

There are standing meetings with the chairs of these search committees to be sure everything stays on track. The approach in all four cases is to have selected candidates for interview appear on campus after the first of the year – middle of January or early February. The Provost’s Office is working on meeting rooms for open meetings on all four searches.

- Jim Ruebel is quite ill and will be resigning next June. John Emert is acting dean of Honors College.

The Acting Provost responded to the following questions:

- Travel funds? Will the allocation for travel funds be the same amount as last year?

*There are extra centennial funds that have come in from the last year or two. The college funds were allocated early and there is an additional amount available. There is \$1600 available per person for tenured and tenure-line faculty. It is the discretion of the dean on how the funds are distributed. It is always suggested to hold back some of that pot to help with things that may come up during the year. Any additional funds remaining will be sent to the colleges in March or April.*

Concerning supporting contract faculty and travel funds – many are productive and bring prestige to the university. In the past, we’ve been told it’s for tenure-line and up to tenure-line to decide if they want to share that with the contract faculty. Isn’t there a place within the university where these individuals can apply for travel funds?

*The deans have complete authority to distribute travel funds to contract faculty. It was suggested to have them make a case to the dean and then the dean bring it to my office for consideration.*

- Were technology funds used to pay for the new advisors and have all the funds been used for this?

*A mandate was established by the state for us to come up with \$1.7M for the new advisors. There is an allocation for tech fees. There was also a redistribution of academic excellence grants. There is no technology freeze because not all the funds were allocated. It was only \$100-200K less in the technology funds, but it is not all gone. The trade-off of laying an extra burden on a faculty member (advising) and having the faculty member go one year longer without a new computer, is a good deal.*

- Iweb is retiring and faculty have been told they need a place to keep their professional websites. Are there any other suggestions for where to put faculty websites?

*An inquiry will be made as to why there isn't a place on the website and report back to the senate.*

- The Reporting of Outside Activities policy has a number of attachments. At the last meeting of the senate for 2015-16, the motion was tabled after objections and improvements were requested. What is the purpose of the forum and has the group at the administrative level made revisions that were voice at the last meeting?

*Nothing has changed. The forum is to make faculty and professional staff more informed and for them to ask questions.*

7. Question and Answer Period

There were no questions.

8. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

9. New Business

- A. Members of Councils/Committees in University Governance System (University Senate Agenda, 9/1/16, Enclosure #4)

A motion was made and seconded (Fitzgerald/Kovac) to approve the membership of the councils and committees.

The motion carried.

10. Other Items

Please remember to attend the discussion forum regarding the Reporting of Outside Activities policy on September 22, 4-5pm, in the Letterman Building, Room 125 (this same room).

11. Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Kraus, Secretary

/mt