

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE 2020-21 UNIVERSITY SENATE
FEBRUARY 25, 2021

Members Present: 33

Members Absent: 16

1. The meeting was called to order by the Chair of the University Senate, Tarek Mahfouz, at 4:02 p.m.

Substitutions were asked to email Bethany Allen for record keeping purposes.

Members Present: N. Bogart, C. Bohanon, A. Bowen, M. Carter, K. Chipman, M. Clayton, K. Coker, C. Dailey, S. Fulton, K. Gayes, M. Kovach, S. Lee, E. Lucas, T. Mahfouz, M. McCarthy, C. McIntosh, G. Mearns, C. Montenegro, N. Perera, J. Place, V. Rapatz, S. Rivera-Mills, C. Sanburn, N. Seely, C. Shue, J. Shimkus, S. Smith, S. Snideman, J. Sponseller, A. Stefanski, J. Truitt, J. Tye, S. Wilczynski

Substitutes: N/A

Members Absent: V. Birk, J. Blyth, C. Braden, O. Frausto, L. Gerstein, K. Hennessee, J. Hopwood, K. Kessler, D. Lewandowski, S. Martin, M. McGriff, K. Reese, M. Watters, D. Wheeler, D. Whitton, R. Yantz

Guests: H. Dickin, M. Gillilan, J. Buckrop

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of December 3, 2020.

No nays noted. No abstentions noted.

Motion carried.

2. Announcements

- A. Next Scheduled Meetings

University Senate – Thursday, March 25, 2021, 4:00 p.m., WebEx/Zoom

Senate Agenda Committee – Monday, March 15, 2021, 2:00 p.m., WebEx/Zoom

- A. Student Code Revisions- Approved by the Student Government Association on December 2, 2020.- (Enclosure #1)
Tarek provided a quick summary of the most significant changes referencing the enclosure provided. This item was approved by the Student Government Association in December of 2020. It is an announcement today.
- B. Non-Tenure-Line Committee- Promotion Policy Addendum- Approved by Faculty Council on January 28, 2021.- (Enclosure #2). Tarek provided a quick summary of the changes referencing the enclosure provided. This item was approved by Faculty Council previously.

3. Recognition of Deaths

There was a moment of silence to recognize the death of the following:

Dr. DeVon L. Yoho
Associate Professor Emeritus of Economics & Director Emeritus of the Center for Economic Education
Retired 2012
34 years of service

Dr. Whitney H. Gordon
Professor Emeritus of Sociology
Retired 1991- adjunct until 2002
33 years of service with an additional 11 years as adjunct faculty member (44 total years)

Dr. Thomas M. Jordan
Chairperson Emeritus and Associate Professor Emeritus
Retired 2016
33 years of service

Dr. Jody Nagel
Professor Emeritus of Music Theory & Composition
Retired 2019
27 years of Service

4. Questions Directed to President Mearns

President Mearns wanted to share some information with the University Senate. Presentation and questions included but were not limited to the following topics:

- Enrollment of fall freshmen for 2021 is strong currently.
- Fewer students are withdrawing at this time as compared to spring of 2020.
- Other universities experienced a smaller Freshman class incoming fall of 2020, similarly to Ball State.
- Other Indiana universities that normally admit larger numbers of international students have admitted more Indiana students this incoming fall.
- Technology is being utilized to facilitate campus tours to incoming Freshmen and with the spring weather improving, we anticipate more face-to-face tours increasing.
- The General Assembly Budget session is underway working on educational institutions operating appropriations.
- There is a very modest positive operating margin for our university.
- The State of Indiana economy appears to be returning to a more normal level.
- The total amount of operating appropriations will be restored to the previously budgeted amounts.
- We are waiting to find out how those appropriations will be allocated among the educational institutions.
- There is concern that the formula being utilized to determine our allocations may not provide the expected outcomes.
- President Mearns reference four slides including graphs to illustrate comparisons with other Indiana institutions.
- We are asking the General Assembly to create a task force to review the formula being utilized for allocations to ensure it is producing the results the policy makers intended.
- The current formula and model used by Indiana may result in smaller allocations for our university.
- There is about another six week of work to be done in the General Assembly.
- This information has been shared with other institutions.
- There will not be a definitive answer on salary increases until the May budget meeting.
- President Mearns thanked everyone for their continued hard work.

5. Committee Reports

- A. Governance and Elections Committee – Suzy Smith- The committee cancelled the February 4, 2021 meeting. The next meeting is March 18, 2021. They are still receiving committee responses to their charge.
- B. Faculty Council – Jon Truitt- The council approved the changes to the Graduate Catalog.
- C. Professional Personnel Council – Sam Snideman- The council met on February 4, 2021 to approve the minutes of October 15, 2020. They received committee reports and had no new or unfinished business.
- D. Student Government Association – Connor Sanburn/Dylan Lewandowski- Connor explained there have been a couple pieces of legislation considered but not approved. They are currently in the middle of a new election. Please remind students to vote.

6. Report by Chairperson of Senate – Tarek Mahfouz – Gantt chart (Enclosure #3) - Issues in the Senate System

Tarek Mahfouz reviewed each item briefly, highlighting the current location and ongoing nature of each. These items included:

1. Core Curriculum Revision- The forums have concluded. The committee is reviewing the transcripts of the forums to create a comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document to be shared.
2. Graduate Education Committee- Taught/with policy revision- The concerns this item was attempting to address of corrected themselves. This policy revision is no longer needed.
3. Board of Trustees Membership Ad hoc- President Mearns has discussed this proposal with the Board of Trustees and they do not approve or endorse the proposal currently. The Ad hoc committee will be provided the reply from the President and Board of Trustees allowing them time to provide a response.
4. Undergraduate Education Committee- BA/BS Program Distinctions- This item remains with the Undergraduate Education Committee.
5. Undergraduate Education Committee- Credit for Prior Learning-This item remains with the Undergraduate Education Committee.
6. Graduate Education Committee Catalog changes- This item has been approved by the Faculty Council on January 28, 2021.
7. Charge to all Committees- Information continues to be collected.

7. Question and Answer Period:

There were no additional questions.

8. Unfinished Business: There is no unfinished business.

9. New Business: There is no new business.

10. Other Items:
- A. The Academic Leadership Group (ALG)- This group meets regularly and includes Deans, Chairs, Associate Chairs, etc. The purpose is to share information. In an effort to increase information sharing, an email will be provided asking for any questions about any topics of interest. Tarek referenced the presentation regarding the Best Practice's for Supporting Scholarship in Response to the Pandemic. This presentation was shared previously to aid departments. Discussion ensued. Topics and questions included but not limited to the following:
- A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page is available for the Special Education Department.
 - Many units have already implemented some changes to the Promotion and Tenure documents.
 - An addendum could be attached to Promotion and Tenure documents.
 - Research may not be possible to the full extent for quite some time moving forward.
 - Faculty can work to support each other.
 - Each unit will have to determine how to manage the effects of the pandemic on research.
 - Faculty can document how the pandemic has affected them personally and professionally.
- B. Tarek Mahfouz announced that plans for the Summer 2021 and Fall 2021 semesters is moving forward. Summer 2021 classes will be mainly online and have face-to-face for those courses that require that method of teaching. The Fall 2021 classes will be at full capacity on campus with face-to-face courses. Masks will be required.
- C. Tarek Mahfouz will confirm with the correct office on a more specific definition of performance regarding our university and the state funded allocations process. Tarek will provide a response later.

11. Adjournment:
A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 5:12 p.m.
No nays noted. No abstentions noted.
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie McIntosh, Secretary

/ba