

MINUTES OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE 2020-21 UNIVERSITY SENATE
DECEMBER 3, 2020

Members Present: 40

Members Absent: 9

1. The meeting was called to order by the Chair of the University Senate, Tarek Mahfouz, at 4:00 p.m.

Substitutions were asked to be emailed to the undersecretary for the record. It was reviewed that the Zoom meeting would be recorded and asked if there were any objections. No objections noted.

Members Present: V. Birk, J. Blyth, N. Bogart, A. Bowen, M. Carter, K. Chipman, M. Clayton, K. Coker, C. Dailey, K. Gayes, L. Gerstein, K. Hennessee, J. Hopwood, M. Kovach, D. Lewandowski, E. Lucas, T. Mahfouz, S. Martin, M. McCarthy, M. McGriff, C. McIntosh, G. Mearns, C. Montenegro, J. Place, V. Rapatz, S. Rivera-Mills, C. Sanburn, N. Seely, C. Shue, J. Shimkus, S. Smith, S. Snideman, J. Sponseller, S. Stefanski, J. Tye, M. Watters, D. Wheeler, D. Whitton, S. Wilczynski

Substitutes: J. Plowdrey for R. Yantz

Members Absent: C. Bohanon, C. Braden, O. Frausto, S. Fulton, K. Kessler, S. Lee, N. Perera, K. Reese, J. Truitt

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of October 29, 2020.

No nays noted. No abstentions noted.

Motion carried.

2. Announcements

A. Next Scheduled Meetings

University Senate – Thursday, January 21, 2021, 4:00 p.m., WebEx/Zoom

Senate Agenda Committee – Monday, January 11, 2021, 2:00 p.m., WebEx/Zoom

B. Chair Tarek Mahfouz shared two concerns. Concerns and discussion are listed but not limited to the following:

- Information sharing between University Senate Senators and their departments/colleges needs to improve
- Message received from a student explaining a student's perspective of the current events/culture
- The events/culture currently is greatly affected the students
- Stressful times and situations need to be acknowledged and encourage awareness
- Be mindful and notice the struggles of students you have contact with
- Consider different ways to provide help
- Meetings are happening and will continue to happen with administration and student leaders

3. Recognition of Deaths

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

Dr. Craig O'Hara
Associate Teaching Professor
Department of English
Served since 2008

4. Questions Directed to President Mearns

President Mearns provided the following updates and information:

- Over the last eighteen (18) months the Inclusive Excellence group has continued to meet
- A student advisory group has been formed and has met – this will be a good way to share information
- The final Board of Trustees meeting is set for December 11, 2020
- Any student returning to campus will need to submit a negative COVID test within the 7 days prior to return
- Surveillance COVID testing will be made available in addition to symptomatic COVID testing
- Thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication through this challenging period, professionally, academically, financially, emotionally, etc. Very proud of our faculty, staff, professional personnel, and students

Questions directed to President Mearns and Provost Rivera-Mills included the following but not limited to:

- With the changes in course modality, items are being removed from class syllabuses - are the students receiving the learning they are deserved? Provost Rivera-Mills explained that all the courses are maintaining the required learning outcomes while adjusting for the changes in modality.

- Will faculty, staff and professional personnel be required to test negative for COVID after the holiday break? Present Mearns stated that the faculty, staff and professional personnel are not required to provide a negative test at this time. Rationale included data from this previous semester showed that transmission was happening in social settings and not in the classrooms. This will be taken under advisement and will depend on our community's circumstances.
- Incompletes granted to students- concerns about departments granting those incompletes. The Provost explained it is a decision made at the departmental level and is between the faculty and the student.
- Study days in the spring semester in replacement of an official spring break- emphasize to students the importance of using these days to relax and relieve stress. Suggested brainstorming ideas to suggest to students.
- Promotion and Tenure schedule- consider any adjustments if possible. Provost agreed to look into possible adjustments to the schedule.
- Expectations for graduate student teaching courses labeled as hybrid. Provost recommends that the students work with the Strategic Learning office to partner with them on designing their course.
- Any guidance being released for salary and merit documents? President Mearns explained that December 14, 2020 is the deadline, and the answer depends on the results of the state budget session. There has been a great loss of state appropriations of about ten (10) million dollars.

5. Committee Reports

- Governance and Elections Committee – Suzy Smith- The committee has not met since the last University Senate meeting. They have released a charge to all committees with a deadline for responses by January 15, 2021.
- Faculty Council – Jon Truitt was not able to attend today. No new information to share at this time.
- Professional Personnel Council – Sam Snideman- The council meeting for November 2020 was cancelled due to no new or unfinished business. The council has completed all committee appointments.
- Student Government Association – Connor Sanburn- The association is working on promotion of the study days and how students can relax and utilize the time well. The association will have additional amendments coming forward soon. Student involvement in the association is at a record high of fifty-five (55) senators currently.

6. Report by Chairperson of Senate – Tarek Mahfouz – Gantt chart (Enclosure #2) - 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 committee is formalizing a schedule for the promised forums. Prior to the forum's questions will be collected. All the information for the forums will be sent out to the college deans and departments.
2. Graduate Education Committee- Taught/with policy revision- This item remains with the committee.
3. Board of Trustee Membership Ad hoc- No new information to report about this item.
4. Undergraduate Education Committee- BA/BS Program Distinctions- No new information to report about this item.
5. Undergraduate Education Committee- Credit for Prior Learning- This item remains with the committee.
6. Student Government Association- Voter Center Model- This item will be discussed today.
7. Charge to all Committees - Suzy Smith provided an update under the Governance and Elections Committee report.

7. Question and Answer Period:

- Will the Board of Trustee Membership Ad hoc committee item be discussed at the final Board of Trustee meeting on December 11, 2020? Tarek Mahfouz would inquire but did not believe it was listed on the agenda.

8. Unfinished Business: There is no unfinished business currently.

9. New Business:

- Student Government Association- SR 01-20:21- Voter Center Model- (Enclosure #2)- James Wells
James Wells was welcomed back. He provided background information regarding his history with Student Government and the Voter Center Model. James Wells is asking the University Senate to consider and endorse this item. If it is endorsed, he would then take the item to the appropriate Delaware County officials for consideration. Discussion ensued including but not limited to the following questions/concerns:
 - Is there software with the capability to handle the additional needs currently? Delaware County officials would be responsible for obtaining and managing the appropriate software/equipment needs.
 - This would essentially be handled like early voting in Delaware County. Yes, in that information will be shared as it is during early voting.
 - There is a very important education piece to this - making sure voters understand and making sure training is provided to poll workers.

- This could increase inclusiveness within the community.
- There would be a period needed to prepare for this type of model if adopted by the county.
- James referenced the map included in his enclosure to show examples of where these voting locations are within Delaware County near Ball State University campus.

A motion was made and seconded to endorse the Student Government Association Voter Center Model item.
No nays noted. No abstentions noted.

Motion carried.

10. Other Items: There are no other items currently.

11. Adjournment:

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 5:15 p.m.

Motion carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie McIntosh, Secretary

/ba