MINUTES OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE 2021-22 UNIVERSITY SENATE
February 24, 2022

Members Present: 32
MembersAbsent: 6

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

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


Substitutes: V. Fife-Demski for A. Stefanski, T. Pollard for P. Turner


A motion was made (M. Gillilan) and seconded (C. Haynes) to approve the minutes of January 20, 2022.
No nays noted. No abstentions noted.
Motion carried.

2. Announcements
   A. Next Scheduled Meetings
      University Senate – Thursday, March 24, 2022, 4:00 p.m., Zoom
      Senate Agenda Committee – Monday, March 14, 2022, 2:00 p.m., Zoom

   B. The Professional Personnel Council elected a new Chair to serve for the remainder of the 2021-2022 governance year- Michael Gillilan. Mike was thanked for his service as Chair.

   C. On January 27, 2022 the Faculty Council voted on and approved a proposal from the Non-Tenure-Line Faculty Committee regarding the deletion of 16.1.3.2.4, in the Faculty and Professional Personnel Handbook. 16.1.3.2.4 The document must be approved by the University Faculty Salary and Benefits committee. This statement is no longer applicable.

   D. On January 27, 2022 the Faculty Council voted on and approved a proposal from the Graduate Education committee regarding Section 51- Graduate Faculty Policy- of the Faculty and Professional Personnel Handbook.

   The following section, 51.5.6, should be edited as shown below:

   51.5.6. Terminal degree equivalence will be determined through the process outlined in section 19 of the Faculty and Professional Personnel Handbook, “Teaching Faculty Qualifications Policy and Procedures.” The Dean of the Graduate School may approve the equivalence of the terminal degree for candidates with an exceptionally meritorious record of recognized scholarship, creative endeavor, or achievement in practice commensurate to the scholarly expectations of the terminal degree in the field. In such cases, the Dean of the Graduate School shall consider the relevance of the highest earned degree, professional licensure and certifications, and direct and substantial work experience related to the field that demonstrates competency and the high levels of achievement.

   E. American Association of University Professors- Resolution on Teaching Race and Gender Justice- (Enclosure #1)- Chris Van Hof, Emily Rutter, and Jennifer Erickson

   The Faculty Council conducted and completed an electronic vote approving a revised resolution with a final vote of thirty-two (32) in favor, two (2) opposed, and two (2) abstentions.

3. Recognition of Deaths – There are no new notifications.
4. Questions Directed to President Mearns

President Mearns was not available. Provost Susana Rivera-Mills was present to answer questions. The Provost explained that mask protocols will be discussed by the administration and any changes will be shared with the university.

- What criteria are examined to determine mask protocol changes? Multiple sources are considered for protocol development/changes. The sources include our own data, the CDC, medical experts, Delaware County mandates and data, Indiana state mandates and peer institutions. Spring break will also be considered.

5. Committee Reports

A. Governance and Elections Committee – Nathan Bogert- S. Smith reported that there has been no new business. The committee electronically approved the Governance and Election Committee minutes of October 28, 2021. The next meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2022.

B. Faculty Council – Chris Van Hof- An ad hoc committee under Academic Freedom and Ethics Committee has been formed to research the creation of an ombudsperson. Jennifer Erickson from the American Association of University Professors provided a quick overview of the resolution previously mentioned under announcements. This final action of this resolution was to be announced to University Senate today. The resolution affirms the values of inclusive excellence. Chris Van Hof thanked everyone from Faculty Council and the American Association of University Professors for working on this resolution.

C. Professional Personnel Council – Michael Gillilan- Mike commended the American Association of University Professors and Faculty Council for their work on the resolution. The council met on February 3, 2022. Questions and concerns about crosswalk safety was referred to the Public Safety Committee. Additional questions regarding professional personnel salary and benefits were referred to the Professional Personnel Salary and Benefits Committee with Kate Stoss. The next council meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2022.

D. Student Government Association – Tina Nguyen- Chiara Biddle and Monet Lindstrand are present. Chiara reported that the election season was completed on Tuesday February 22, 2022. Tina Nguyen will return as President and Monet Lindstrand is the President Pro-Tempore for the Student Government Association. They had a successful event with dining this past week and hope to make it a permanent event. Legislation coming forward include charging for plastic bags in dining halls to promote green practice and gender neutral bathrooms in all Ball State buildings. They held a successful retreat yesterday February 23, 2022. They will continue to work on rebranding the Student Government Association to promote student participation. Michael Gillilan met with the SGA Senate regarding changes to the Student Code and Conduct which was voted on and approved. Recently a student wage item was discussed causing some confusing leading to students emailing faculty asking about student wages. Any faculty that received inquiries from students should direct them to Monet Lindstrand via email; mrlindstrand@bsu.edu.

6. Report by Chairperson of Senate – Kesha Coker – Gantt chart (Enclosure #1) - Issues in the Senate System

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

A. Academic Freedom and Ethics Committee- Amendments to the Faculty and Professional Personnel Handbook- This item will be brought back to Faculty Council for review soon.

B. American Association of University Professors- Resolution- This has been announced today.

C. Undergraduate Education Committee- BS/BA Program Distinctions- There is no new information to report.

D. Undergraduate Education Committee- Credit for Prior Learning- There is no new information to report

E. Academic Freedom and Ethics Committee- Ombudsperson Proposal- Anyone interested in serving on the Ad hoc should make the Senate office aware or contact Bruce Frankel.

F. Non-Tenure-Line Committee- Deletion of sentence 16.1.3.2.4. in Faculty and Professional Personnel Handbook.- This item was approved by Faculty Council on January 27, 2022. It has been announced today.

G. Graduate Education Committee- Graduate Faculty Policy 51.5.6. Edit for Faculty and Professional Personnel Handbook- This item was approved by Faculty Council on January 27, 2022. It has been announced today.

H. Graduate Student Government Association inquiry- This inquiry has been directed to the Student Government Association for consideration. This may be brought back to the Senate Agenda Committee.


7. Question and Answer Period:

There are no additional questions currently.

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

9. New Business: There is no new business currently.

10. Other Items: There are no other items currently.
11. Adjournment:
A motion was made (C. Haynes) and seconded (C. Cash) to adjourn at 4:29 p.m.
No nays noted. No abstentions noted.
Motion carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Natalee Seely, Secretary