MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE 2022-2023 UNIVERSITY SENATE

September 29th, 2022

Members Present: 30

Members Absent: 11

1. The meeting was called to order by the 2022-2023 Chair of the University Senate, Nathan Bogert, at 4:02 p.m.

   Substitutions were noted.

   Members Present: 

   Substitutes: 

   Members Absent: 
   C. Bohanon, S. Fulton, A. Hildner, L. Taylor

   Guests: 
   J. Buckrop, R. Willard

   A motion was made (Gillilan) and seconded (Wheeler) to approve the minutes of August 25th, 2022. No nays noted. No abstentions noted.

   Motion carried.

I. Announcements
   A. Next Scheduled Meetings
      University Senate – Thursday, October 27th, 2022 4:00 p.m., LB125
      Senate Agenda Committee – Monday, October 17th, 2022 2:00 p.m., BC200

   B. Introductions
      a. Dr. Rashida Willard, New Associate Vice President of Inclusive Excellence
         Located in Applied Technology building. Born and raised in Portland Oregon, very excited to work here at Ball State
      b. Jackson Onieal, New Executive Coordinator and Secretary for University Senate

   C. Modifications to the Ex-Officio Membership of UCC- Voted on and approved by Faculty Council on September 1st, 2022- Jennifer Grouling (Enclosure #1)

II. Questions Directed to President Mearns

   President wanted to expand on some things from last meeting. Regarding SB1, law became effective and then was stayed by a state court judge. How does this affect student healthcare? Student healthcare center is run with a contract with IU Health. Nothing in the law restricts their staff or Ball State employees from advising students about access to abortion care and referring them to providers. Continuing to provide specific guidance to employees that will help students with this issue.

   With respect to the employee healthcare plan, coverage is provided under the healthcare plan as it stands. The new law doesn’t appear to change that. As with all services covered by the health plan, abortion is covered if it was legal to provide in the state where it was provided and as long as the doctor’s license extends to that care. Employee benefits office can provide more detailed information upon request.

   Some Colleges have land acknowledgment statements, but there is a plan in place to create a university wide statement that can be used by all. Leadership will contact local indigenous tribes to ask for help in creating this statement. NAGRA compliance process is underway. Once complete, we will seek input from appropriate tribes to ask what they would prefer to be done with any remains.
Approved 12/1/22

Board of Trustees meeting is tomorrow. Two items of note. Ball State has 12 acres of farmland that the Administration intends to donate at no cost to the Muncie Redevelopment Commission. Also, a determination about healthcare premiums for the next calendar year. Recommendation is to not increase healthcare premium, pending board approval.

Gillilan asks a question about the land donation, will there be any conditions attached to the land donation? There will be no stipulations attached to the donation, Mayor has given the impression that it will not necessarily be affordable, but it will be potentially 35-40 homes. It was not really considered for the university to develop the land itself.

Gillilan requests representation on hiring for the future task force. Provost responds that every college is organizing how they’re going to be recruiting to be more comprehensive. Not necessarily a task force, and exclusively for faculty. Second question, is the university thinking systematically about how to be more competitive in hiring. President’s response: changing title of AVP for HR to People and Culture. Important to think comprehensively about the people we’re hiring and the culture we’re creating, and what those people can bring to the culture. There will be a much more holistic strategic approach to hiring as a part of this modified roles.

III. Committee Reports

A. Governance and Elections Committee – Linda Taylor, Chairperson
   Bogert filling in, discussed a new proposal for a department of race, gender and ethnic studies. Committee will be creating the criteria that govern the vote of affected faculty.

B. Faculty Council – Chris Van Hof, Chairperson
   UCC committee has met twice now, charge to committee includes a directive to make the reduction from 36 to 30 hours. Also directed to provide some suggestions as to where those 6 hours could be removed. That will be a discussion, not a vote. There are discussions about a writing coordinator across the core, as well as highlighting inclusive courses in the core. Ad hoc committee has been created to look at an ombudsperson role, has met and is waiting on some direction from the Provost which is coming. Non-tenure line proposal is also in the works.

C. Professional Personnel Council – Mike Gillilan, Chairperson
   Did not have quorum at most recent meeting, electronic vote was done to approve standing rules and officers. Next meeting October 13th. Professional Personnel Technology committee is going to meet to further define their role and determine whether there is enough work to keep things going.

D. Student Government Association- Tina Nguyen/Monet Lindstrand
   Recently passed budget. Plan to expand Take Back the Night, perhaps including prominent voices from the Muncie Community. The fair wages commission is meeting, trying to expand the number of hours students can work per pay period to increase student incomes. Will work closely with Career Center to track data from wage hikes at departments around campus. Expanding free feminine hygiene products program around campus.

IV. Report by Chairperson of Senate – Nathan Bogert– GANTT chart (Enclosure #2 - Issues in the Senate System)

Almost everything is exactly the same as last meeting, with the exception of the announced changes to the membership of the UCC committee. If there are any questions about the GANTT chart or specific items on it, this time can be used to ask.

V. Question and Answer Period

VI. Unfinished Business

VII. New Business

VIII. Other Items

IX. Adjournment

Motion made by Prater, Wheeler seconded
Motion carried unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

Kourtland Koch, Secretary