

Faculty Senate Minutes
6 September 2019
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Room: CAB 402.1

In Attendance: Claire Nolasco, Joseph Simpson, Matthew Mangum, Rodolfo Valdez, Alan Daniel, Katherine Bridgman, Adrianna Santos, Sandra Lara, Andrew Sanders, Robert Vinaja, Kevin Barton, Douglas Carter, Keming Li, Gilbert Barrera, Caroline O’Quinn, Young Rae Kim, Jimena Guerra, Scott Peters, Sukho Lee, Jeremy Zuni, Marina Navaraz

Guests in Attendance: Amy Porter, James Finley, Maria Acevedo Aquino, Jackson Ayres

Meeting Called to Order: 11:30 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: Scott Peters motioned to approve the minutes. Joseph Simpson Seconded that motion; Minutes were approved.

Administrative Updates:

Dr. Matson was not able to attend.

Updates from Dr. O’Brien

- Vacancies filled since last update
 - o Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Studies: Dr. Vijay Golla
 - o JaguarTracks Coordinator:
 - JaguarTracks Coordinator
 - Quantitative Reasoning Director
 - o Compliance positions
 - Director of Research Compliance: search closed
 - Coordinator of Research Compliance: Linda Long
 - o Grants and Contracts: post-award position
 - Position is currently open
- Guidelines for promotion – Non-Tenure Track
 - o Passed Senate, now with Deans and Chairs
 - o O’Brien is ready to sign and post
- Interdisciplinary and General Studies Degrees
 - o Faculty committee will be looking into this
 - o O’Brien would like this in place as soon as possible
 - o General Studies Degree
 - Provides pathway for students to enter curriculum that is tailored for them
 - O’Brien has seen that this is particularly fitting for non-traditional students
 - Concern raised by Scott Peters about the utility of this degree
 - o Interdisciplinary Degree
 - For student who does not want to do all of the requirements for a degree
 - For example, a student who wants to major in psychology, but also wants to take courses in other area

- Allows students to work with advisor to craft a degree that works best for them
 - Would allow students to have areas of concentration
 - Might be housed in an office of Special Degree Programs
- Ebooks: O'Brien encouraged faculty to look at ebooks.
 - 47% of books on campus are ebooks
 - Highlighted cost efficiency
- Honors program
 - O'Brien wants Faculty Senate to look at this plan. By late spring, he will bring the plan to Faculty Senate that a committee is currently working on
 - Jonathan Jones: hired to help setup our honors program
 - O'Brien doesn't want anything that sets students at this campus apart. Honors program should be something that all students can potentially attain

State Employees Charitable Campaign Update: Amy Porter

- Runs from September 1 – October 31
- Opportunity for state employees to donate money through payroll deduction
- You can set up donations through SSO under the SECC tab
 - One-time and monthly giving options are available
 - List of organizations can be found online
- Matson's goal for university participation is 40%
- There are going to be events around this, such as the LipSync contest
- Please direct questions, ideas, and complaints to Amy

Old Business

Professional Development Funds: Andrew Sanders

- Proposing that we get some data on distribution of current faculty positions (adjunct, lecturer, tenure-track)
- Claire mentioned asking the data from the Provost's office

Faculty Representation on Faculty Senate: Andrew Sanders

- Importance of good representation across adjuncts, lecturers, and tenure-track faculty
- Desire to ensure that non-tenure track issues are also addressed by Faculty Senate
- Joe Simpson: suggested doing a faculty climate survey at the same time as faculty position survey

Ad Hoc Committee on faculty pay and summer salary

- Tasked with examining current summer salary rates for our faculty
- Amy Porter: suggested examining and comparing our summer pay to similar institutions
- Survey supposed to be sent out to faculty about this
 - Kevin Barton following up on this
- Concerns raised in discussion
 - Salary structure if class doesn't meet the required minimum size
 - Internally, departments are handling this differently by cutting pay or canceling class

- Need to think about other ways to address concern that precipitated conversation: increasing faculty research productivity during the summer
- Faculty currently committing to summer teaching and nothing has been decided about how this will be handled summer 2020
- Changing summer pay will effectively shift financial status of faculty relying on this source of income
- Might undermine faculty retention and recruitment
- This issue should be examined in the context of broader concerns related to faculty pay
 - Promotional pay
 - Adjunct pay rate
- Claire suggested that these broader issues should be addressed by the ad hoc committee writing the report alongside survey data that is gathered
- Committee charge by next meeting: send Faculty Senate survey for feedback and meet with Provost, Claire will ask the Provost to hold off on making change to summer salary
- Committee membership
 - Kevin Barton
 - Daniel Delgado
 - Gilbert Barrera
 - April Najjaj

IRB Review Procedure: Sukho Lee

- Sukho Lee
 - Faculty approaching Lee with concerns about IRB process
 - Testimony from faculty
 - Dr. Young: received grant and was going to collect data over the summer, but couldn't because her expedited proposal wasn't processed in a timely manner
 - Multiple rounds of comments from IRB staff members slowed down process
 - Dr. Elias: received multiple requests for revision on a proposal that did not include review comments. Many revision comments that triggered a return of the proposal were not related to subject safety.
 - Dr. Shen: wanting to address earlier problems now that the Common Rule has been addressed and new chair has been appointed
 - Dr. Weatherford, co-chair of IRB, assured Faculty Senate that their concerns had been heard and were being addressed

Ad Hoc Committee for Issues and Concerns with Research: Rodolfo Valdez

- Concern: communication about problems faculty are having is often not targeted toward identifying solutions to problem
- Proposal: avenue to voice problems and clearly articulate what we should do address issue
 - This would be confidential and anonymous to protect faculty from retaliation
 - Sited examples of administration retaliation via aggressive emails
- Committee's charge:

- Put in writing what problem is
- Identify if problem is being shared by multiple people
- Articulate and then give to appropriate context showing how important issue is
- Reach out to faculty to see what they need
- Rodolfo's proposal
 - Activate Ad Hoc committee with clear mandate
 - Put together structure for collecting data
 - Example: personal visits to office
 - Claire Nolasco: suggested that the Faculty Senate's standing Faculty Development and Research Committee handle these issues instead of creating another ad hoc committee; asked Rodolfo to volunteer as member of this standing committee

Updates to Faculty Computers/Tecnology: Andrew Sanders

- Suggestion that when computers are cycled out, IT cleans them and they offer them to students for discounted rate
- Connected to move to ebooks for students
- Claire Nolasco and Joseph Simpson will bring this to Dr. Matson during their next meeting

Equity and Open Knowledge: James Finley and Deirdre McDonald

- October: Open Access Week
 - Theme: "Open for Whom?" addressing equity
- Events
 - Archie Irving, guest speaker: October 18 (Georgia Tech)
 - Email or social media campaign on what faculty can do related to this issue
 - Filming of *PayWall*: film on the business of scholarship
- Requesting for Faculty Senate to cosponsor
- Joseph Simpson, moves to cosponsor;
- Matthew Mangum, seconded
- Vote:
 - In favor: all senators present but one
 - Against: 0
 - Absention: 1
- James also invited dialogue about a workshop with university library where we will be discussing this repository
 - Concerns raised about current political climate and making scholarship more accessible and visible
 - Joseph Simpson: topic suggestion for workshop on organizations that target faculty
 - Suggestion made for organizing committee to also look at places on campus where these concerns are already being discussed and addressed
 - Climate Change
 - LLA
 - Animal research

Committee Appointments

- University Library
 - **Adrianna Santos: 10**
 - Douglas Carter: 9
 - Robert Vinaja: 0

- Faculty Development and Research Committee
 - Rodolfo Valdez
 - Andrew Sanders
 - Myriam Guerra
 - Voting for all three
 - No oppositions or abstentions

- Compliance and Grievance
 - Library: Jeremy Zuni
 - Arts and Sciences: Sandra
 - Business: Gilbert Barrera
 - Education: Sukho Lee
 - Voting for all nominations
 - No oppositions or abstentions

- Election Committee:
 - Library: Marina Narvaez
 - Arts and Sciences: Katherine Bridgman
 - Business: Matthew Mangum
 - Education and Human Development: Caroline O'Quinn
 - Voting for all nominations
 - No oppositions or abstentions

- Writing Across the Curriculum Committee
 - Rebekah Piper will remain chair
 - No oppositions or abstentions

Announcements:

- Joseph Simpson: Speaker coming on Monday to talk about borderlands topic
 - 11 AM Monday
- Douglas Carter: November 1: Strategic Initiative Grant
 - Four-hour symposium on female entrepreneurship in South Texas
 - 10:30 – 2:30 pm

Meeting adjourned at 1:03 pm.