

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES March 7, 2023

Present: Belnap, Chrobak, Dilkes, Heath, Hersey, Hudson, Jurmu Kim, Krueger, Kurtz, Manning, Matson, Otto, Palmeri, Purse-Wiedenhoeft, Robson, Siemers, Stuart, Szydlik, Tipps, Tirel, Vaz, Wagoner, Williams, Wren

Excused: Alnsour, Elannani, Cole, Feldman, Schmitt

Absent:

Guests: Carmen Faymonville, Jasmine Buxton

Administration Representative: John Koker

Senate of Academic Staff Representative: Laura Smolinski

University Staff Senate Representative: Lisa Mick

Oshkosh Student Association Representative: Jesse Ramsey

Access Campus Report: Jurmu/Tirel

Minutes in Brief

At the March 7, 2023, meeting of the Faculty Senate, we heard a report from the Senate of Academic Staff, the University Staff Senate, the Oshkosh Student Association, and the Access Campuses. We approved the minutes of our February 21, 2023, meeting. The new AVC for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, Jasmine Buxton, was introduced and welcomed. She shared her background and goals for her position. The Senate approved the Chemistry Department bylaws, as well as membership of the Faculty Senate Elections Committee. Discussion was held on the UFSO and Faculty Senate Joint Statement, "Investing in the Classroom Is Our Best Strategy: Support and Retention of First-Year Students." The Personnel Policies Committee shared a report. Information items included the vacancy of a senator seat on the Assessment Committee and the upcoming Faculty Senate elections schedule. President Szydlik provided university updates. The meeting adjourned at 4:19 pm.

President Szydlik called the meeting to order at 3:10 pm.

I. Welcome

President Szydlik welcomed the new OSA Student Representative, Jesse Ramsey, and the new Senate of Academic Staff Representative, Laura Smolinski. Both have stepped up to serve for the remainder of the semester.

II. Guest: AVC for Student Affairs and Dean of Student, Jasmine Buxton

AVC Buxton shared her background and goals for her position. She would like to build relationships with professors and ensure that the support from faculty is strong to guide students both in and out of the classroom.

III. State of the University

A. Provost – University Updates

- We are considering direct admission. Campuses will work with their local school districts. We will begin with a pilot program to directly admit high school seniors who meet specific criteria.
- Testing Services and Scantrons update – The long-term plan is to replace scantrons with scanners and a new software called Akindi. The software can be used for classes of any size for test scoring (hopefully beginning in Fall 2023). The software is compatible with Canvas, more efficient than our current process, and will be managed through colleges or departments.

B. Senate of Academic Staff (Smolinski) – Highlights included: SAS is pleased to announce that for the first time in several years they have used all of their Professional Development Fund. They discussed IAS voting rights and representative Smolinski thanked President Szydlik for attending their meeting and

discussing that issue with their Senate. They voted to rescind three chapters from their handbook that are no longer applicable (since TTC) and will be updating their remaining chapter.

- C. University Staff Senate (Mick) – No report. They will meet next week.
- D. OSA (Ramsey) – Highlights included: Representative Ramsey, an at-large Senator from OSA introduced himself and shared recent OSA news: The Provost was a guest at their last meeting to talk about the Governor’s budget. OSA discussed the potential tuition increase, parking issues for student athletes, and the fact that Titan Catholics have requested to hang a Vatican flag in Reeve.
- E. Access Campus/Collegium – FOX (Vaz) – Highlights: FOX had a well-attended open house despite the storm; they have held two Collegium meetings; they have begun working on website overhaul; and they have started a book club.
- F. Access Campus/Collegium – FDL (Jurmu) – Highlights: FDL hosted an open house and were appreciative of Oshkosh campus staff that attended; they are working on ways that their campus can participate in Strategic Planning; and they are re-starting their Sunshine Club (a group of colleagues that do luncheons and encourage each other).

IV. Minutes of February 21, 2023

February 21, 2023, minutes stand approved as distributed.

V. Unfinished Business - None

VI. New Business

A. Bylaws - Chemistry

The Bylaws Committee recommended the updates but noted that the bylaws as a whole will need additional updates in the future.

MOTION: Vaz/Tirel moved to approve the Chemistry Bylaws. (21 Yes), (0 No), (0 Abstentions). Passed Unanimously

FS 2223-16 The Faculty Senate approved the Chemistry Bylaws.

- B. Elections Committee – Senators Siemers, Hudson, and Otto volunteered.

MOTION: Heath/Vaz moved to approve the Elections Committee members: Siemers, Hudson, and Otto. (20 Yes), (0 No), (0 Abstentions). Passed Unanimously

FS 2223-17 The Faculty Senate approved the following Election Committee members: Siemers, Hudson, and Otto.

VII. Discussion Items

- A. UFSO and Faculty Senate Joint Statement: “Investing in the Classroom Is Our Best Strategy: Support and Retention of First-Year Students” (The Statement can be found in the One Drive Folder) -- Discussion topics included: IAS workload in various departments; concerns about first-year student support if all IAS in COLS have a 30-credit workload; and the importance of endorsing the statement prior to the Provost’s Summit.

MOTION: Siemers/Kurtz moved to suspend the rules and move this discussion item to action item. (19 Yes), (2 Opposed), (0 Abstentions). Passed

MOTION: Manning/Vaz moved to endorse the statement: (19 Yes), (1 Opposed), (1 Abstention). Passed

FS 2223-18 The Faculty Senate endorsed the UFSO and Faculty Senate Joint Statement, “Investing in the Classroom Is Our Best Strategy: Support and Retention of First-Year Students.”

VIII. Committee Reports

- A. Personnel Policies Committee – President Szydlik reported that the committee intends to address the conflict-of-interest that arises when IAS vote for department chair by requiring that departments that wish to have IAS vote for chair use their Tenure and Renewal Committee (or equivalent) for evaluation and renewal or rehire of IAS. The Personnel Policies Committee is also updating the Faculty Grievance Policy. That policy will come forward to Faculty Senate this spring.

IX. Information Items

A. Faculty Senate Elections Update

Call to Access Campus Faculty went out 3/1/23, and nominations are due 3/10/23. Call out to All Campus Faculty for remaining open seats goes out 3/17/23, with nominations due 3/31/23. Primary Elections will be held 4/6/23 & 4/7/23. Final Elections will be held 4/13/23 & 4/14/23.

B. Senator Seat – Assessment Committee: VACANCY

- C. Meeting format for next year. Senators were asked to think about this, as it will be discussed at a future meeting.

X. Items from Members - None

XI. President’s Report

- A. Chancellor’s Leadership Council – Highlights: President Rothman has recommended the first tuition increase in over ten years to the Board of Regents. Chancellor has been lobbying for updates to Polk Library and our boilers at the State Capitol in Madison. Research in the Rotunda will be held tomorrow. Governor Evers visited our campus to tour residence halls. The HLC visit is March 13 and 14. The Provost Search Committee is about to identify and interview semi-finalists. President Szydlik reminded faculty that open-records requests should be forwarded to Elizabeth Hartman. Updates on UWO+ were shared. The Provost’s Summit starts tomorrow. Provost Koker will select a new AVC for Faculty and Academic Staff Affairs this spring. Enrollment trends for all three campuses were shared. Women’s History Month is coming, please watch for events. Please take the recent Climate Resilience Survey and attend the Sustainability Summit on May 19th.
- B. Shared Governance Leaders – There was a lengthy discussion of UWO +.

The meeting adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
April Dutscheck, Recorder