

## **FACULTY SENATE MINUTES**

### **March 19, 2024**

Present: Beyer, Belnap, Cole, Demezas, Elannani, Feldman, Fuller, Graf, Groves, Gutow, Hudson, Kim, Kreider, Kurtz, Loiacono, Manning, Otto, Panske, Purse-Wiedenhoeft, Schmitt, Siemers, Stuart, Szydlik, Tipps, Wagoner, Williams

Excused:

Absent: Matson

Guests: Josh Garrison, Jakob Iversen, Renae Swanson, Andrew Smock, Bryan Lilly, Kim Langolf, Karl Boehler, Vince Filak, Kathleen Wren, Anne Stevens

Administration Representative:

Provost Martini

Senate of Academic Staff Representative:

Bobbi-Jean Ludwig

FDL/FOX Cities Campus Reports:

Evan Kreider

#### **Minutes in Brief**

On March 19, 2024, the Faculty Senate held a special meeting with the exclusive goal of discussing the Faculty Referendum on University Restructuring. After a lengthy discussion, the Senate approved the Referendum. The meeting adjourned at 4:26 pm.

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

- I. Welcome – President Manning welcomed everyone to today’s Senate meeting. She enumerated the documents in the packet, reminding everyone that the only action item is the Referendum on University Restructuring. She clarified that all items in addition to the Ballot for the Referendum were shared to provide Senators with relevant context for the discussion.
  
- II. Action Item
  - A. Faculty Referendum on University Restructuring (items listed below are for informing this action item)
    1. Proposed Restructuring Referendum Process Document
    2. Proposed Ballot for Referendum
    3. Transition Team Documents on Administrative Positions
    4. Transition Team Answers to Faculty Questions (18 March 2024)
    5. Transition Team Answers to Faculty Questions (15 March 2024)
    6. Transition Team – Academic Planning Budget Explanation (Model A: 3 college + 6 schools)

#### **MOTION: Kurtz/Loiacono moved to approve the Referendum on University Restructuring.**

Discussion ensued, and topics included:

- The information contained on the ballot, how the ranked vote will be tallied, and the instant run-off process;
- The process by which the Faculty Senate Elections Committee will tally the votes;
- What happens if neither Model A nor Model B is chosen by a majority of voters and how the “no” vote will be regarded by the administration;
- That President Manning will share the results of the vote (all aspects, including vote ratios) with the Senate and University community;
- The process following an approval of the Referendum by the Faculty Senate, namely, and specifically that there will subsequently be a month for feedback, including at the two Faculty-Senate-hosted open forums (2 and 12 April);

- Assurance that members of the Academic Planning Workgroup Transition Team will attend the open forums hosted by Faculty Senate;
- The urgency of moving forward in order to ensure that there is enough time remaining in the semester to satisfy all aspects of the process;
- Academics are a faculty matter and several Senators noted that faculty are responsible for overseeing the curriculum; thus faculty input is critical;
- The slide deck shared by Senator Fuller, which includes questions and projections about the cost savings associated with the two models, was discussed;
- Senators voiced concerns that we would be disenfranchising faculty if we don't move forward with initiating a Referendum and thus empowering faculty to weigh in, both in forums and through their votes, on the two proposed models;
- The new Transition Team answers to faculty questions shared in the packet were appreciated as they provided answers to some questions;
- It was agreed that the projected cost savings associated with each of the two models should be removed from the Model A and B graphics on the ballot, given that those projections may change in light of forthcoming collaboration between a subgroup of the Faculty Senate Budget Committee and a subgroup of the Transition Team;
- Senator Purse-Wiedenhoef noted that she is very proud of the way that Senators are making their voice heard, sharing concerns, and representing their constituents, both at the Faculty Senate and abroad. This is critical and it's good to see faculty finding their voice again;
- Provost Martini observed that he hopes to continue to build trust and be open through this process. He shared his appreciation for all the work that has already been done by members of the Transition Team and that he is optimistic about the next steps in the process;
- President Manning pledged to put the Budget Committee and the Transition Team in contact with each other so they can work collaboratively to respond to faculty concerns about the projected cost savings associated with Models A and B.

**MOTION: Stuart/Belnap moved to amend and strike the budget savings numbers from the ballot. (26 Yes) Passed Unanimously**

**Question called to vote as amended:  
(24 Yes), (1 No), (0 Abstentions), Passed**

**FS 2324-21 The Faculty Senate approved the Faculty Referendum for University Restructuring as amended.**

President Manning thanked everyone for attending this extra and important meeting, it was very important to get to this point and be sure everyone's voice was heard.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
April Dutscheck,  
Recorder