

Volume XVI, Number 8
Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting
June 1, 2023

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by President Dr. Kate Sheppard at 2:05 pm. Roll was called by Secretary Dave Westenberg. Those whose names are grayed out below were absent.

Lana Alagha, Venkat Allada, Stuart Baur, Matthew Burmeister, Devin Burns, Jeff Cawlfeld, Alex Chernatynskiy, Amitava Choudhury, Steve Corns, Kathryn C. Dolan, William Fahrenholtz, Mehalet Fikru, Darin Finke, Mark Fitch, Mary Gillis, Michael Gosnell, Sarah Hercula (Rachel Schneider), Kelly Homan, Wenqing Hu, Ali Hurson, Kurt Kosbar, Umit Koylu, K. Krishnamurthy, Alanna Krolikowski (Petra Dewitt), Bih-Ru Lea (Mark Fitch), Kelly Liu, Ashok Midha, Parthasakha Neogi, Jorge Porcel, Prakash Reddy, Melissa Ringhausen, Paul Runnion (Stephanie Fitch), Chaman Sabharwal, William Schonberg, Sahra Sedigh Sarvestani, Jeff Smith, Shoaib Usman, Dan Waddill, Jee Ching Wang, David Westenberg, Daniel Willis, Mike Hilgers, Maciej Zawodniok

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 27, 2023 meeting were distributed prior to this meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes.

Motion passes.

III. President's Report

Dr. Kate Sheppard opened the meeting at 2:10 pm

- No major issues or concerns to report on.
- Promotion and Tenure policy Committee working on improving process and progress is being made.
- Due to some confusion regarding version so of the by-laws presented to the Board of Curators, they will be revoting on the correct version at their June 29th meeting.
- Welcomed the new Dean of the Library
- Reminded Senators that their departments need to vote on new Senators for those whose term has expired.
- Shared the need for departments to recommend candidates to serve on grievance panel and equity resolution
- Announced Dr. Sahra Sedigh-Sarvestani begins her role as Ombuds on June 1 and recommends faculty reaching out to her as needed.
- Recent IFC topics include
 - Budget looks “healthy”

- Robust discussion of AI and ChatGPT
- Senate Bills 473 and 410 which could have impacted UMSystem did not pass
- Discussing NTT promotion issues here at S&T and comparisons to other campuses
- Reflected on accomplishments over the past year
 - Improved FS meeting efficiency
 - New policy for asking questions for administrators instead of administrator reports needs some improvement
 - Attendance at General Faculty meetings is still poor and should be looked into
 - Debate and discussion of issues in FS meetings was robust and collegial
 - Special guests provided valuable information and sparked good discussion
 - FS President didn't get to use gavel enough – thanks to collegiality of discussion

IV. Campus Reports

A. Staff Council

- No report

B. Student Council

- No report

C. Council of Graduate Students

- No report

V. Special Topic – Direct admissions

Dr. Steven Raper presented on the history and process of allowing direct admissions

- Direct admissions is now in place
- Replaces previous process of all students admitted to freshman engineering
- New engineering majors will still be advised by the advising center
- Culmination of 2 to 3 year process
- Suggested by students/working group
- Desirable outcome is to improve student sense of belonging
- Process for development was not ideal but it is what it is
- Currently monitoring for issues and identifying necessary changes

VI. Reports of Standing Committees

A. Academic Freedom and Standards

- Dr. Eu-Soon Park presented on behalf of the Academic Freedom and Standards Committee.
- Explained the thought process and discussion leading to the proposed motion.
- Following much discussion a motion was made to table the proposal and send back to

committee to address concerns about timing and implications for refunds and pre-requisites

- Motion was approve 17 – 2

B. Campus Curricula

- Dr. Petra DeWitt presented for the Curriculum Committee (CC). The CC met on May 4 and reviewed 16 course change requests (CC forms), 9 program change forms (PC forms), and 7 experimental course requests (EC forms). (See slides for full list of courses).
- The CC moves that Faculty Senate approve the 16 CC forms, 9 PC forms
- *Motion passes.*

C. CET

- Dr. Devin Burns presented an update on the policy on hiding offensive open response comments. Faculty should have received notice of the process.
- Provided an update on exploring a peer evaluation instrument and timing and frequency of evaluations. Will be reaching out to volunteers to test the process.
- Still need to explore the feasibility of compensation for evaluators.
- See meeting slides for additional details

D. Personnel

- Dr. Dave Westenberg presented the quantitative results from the Faculty/Staff Climate survey.
- In general, most measures are below “neutral” indicating need for improvement.
- Several measures showing potential positive trends toward improvement but more data is needed and will be generated by repeating the survey each year
- Same slides will be presented to Staff Council next week
- Qualitative data will be analyzed over the summer and presented in October.
- See meeting slides for additional details.

E. Administrative Review

- Dr. Kelly Homan presented the summary data and key takeaways from the surveys for Chancellor Deghani, Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs Robinson, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Forciniti, and Chief Institutional Research Officer Jones.
- See meeting slides for additional details.

F. ITCC

- No report

G. Budgetary Affairs

- Dr. Mark Fitch reported on behalf of the Budgetary Affairs Committee.

- Provided the usual detailed analysis of current and proposed budgets.
- This year's budget is going as planned
- 7% increase in state appropriations for next year
- 5.5% increase in tuition income
- Appropriations in place for ERL and Schrenk renovations and extension of geothermal. Delaying initiation hoping for additional appropriations to complete the projects.
- See meeting slides for additional details

VII. Unfinished Business

- None

VIII. New Business

- None

IX. Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 4:03 P.M.
- Respectfully submitted,
- Dave Westenberg, Secretary