



Minutes of the
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE FACULTY SENATE
December 18, 2020

APPROVED

PRESENT: Lacey Craft, William Dalrymple, Alexandra Doyle Bauer, Katy Farrell, Molly Faulkner, Jenny Fererro, Erin Hiro, Jason Jarvinen, Teresa Laughlin, Lawrence Lawson, Beatrice Manneh, Adam Meehan, Susan Miller, Kateri Mouawad (ASG), Ben Mudgett, Scott Nelson, Wendy Nelson, Patrick O'Brien, Elizabeth Stephens, Craig Thompson, Fari Towfiq, Rocco Versaci, Reza Wrathall, Anastasia Zavodny

ABSENT: Eduardo Aguilar, Jackie Martin, Sabrina Santiago, Ellen Weller

GUESTS: Lisette Ordorica Lasater, Vikash Lakhani

Please note: All votes are presumed unanimous unless indicated otherwise.

CALL TO ORDER: The video conference special meeting was called to order by Senate President Rocco Versaci, at 1:00 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Senate President Rocco Versaci shared comments made by President Jack Kahn thanking everyone for their Senate and faculty work this semester.

ACTION

A. Curriculum

Motion 1 MSC: Thompson/Mudgett Faculty Senate approval of curriculum actions taken on December 16, 2020 (see Exhibit 1).

The motion carried.

Senator and Curriculum Chair Wendy Nelson shared her excitement to approve the new Ethnic Studies courses that three departments worked on over the last few months. All of their work is appreciated.

Nelson also announced that all of the DE is complete for spring 2021.

B. Appoint members to Superintendent/President Hiring Committee

Motion 2 MSC: Faulkner/Towfiq Faculty Senate approval of the ballot for the Superintendent/Presidential Hiring Committee (see Exhibit 2).

Michael Arce, Part-Time Faculty
John Russell, AMBA
Anthony Fedon, CTEE
Leanne Maunu, L&L
Lesley Blankenship-Williams, MSE
April Cunningham, SBS
P.J. DeMaris, Student Services

The motion carried.

C. Nomination for Stanback-Stroud Diversity Award

Motion 3 MSC: Towfiq/Fererro

Faculty Senate approval of the nomination of Dr. Hossna Sadat Ahadi for the Stanback-Stroud Diversity Award.

The motion carried.

Senate President Rocco Versaci began the discussion by sharing the deadline date of February 8. Versaci and President Kahn discussed this nomination and Dr. Sadat Ahadi seemed to be a great candidate. A nomination letter, a letter from Senate, a letter from someone who has been affected by the nominee's work and finally, the nominee also has some work on it to complete the package.

VP Vikash Lakhani addressed the nomination of Dr. Sadat Ahadi by saying that she has accomplished many things while leading the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force, some of the work around book clubs and diversity, and she's helped facilitate a lot of the student open forum and healing circles. She has taken it upon herself to infuse diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts across the campus. Sadat Ahadi does all of this above and beyond and is well deserving.

Versaci will work on the Senate's letter over the break and plans to have it reviewed and approved on February 1. Versaci will coordinate nomination materials with VP Lakhani.

INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Student Survey Findings (see Exhibit 3)

ASG representative Kateri Mouawad began the discussion by sharing her exhibit and reported that the findings were substantial. The survey was launched right before Thanksgiving while most students were not on Canvas but still was able to get 300 responses. These responses shared in depth feedback and analysis on what the students would like to see happen in the spring semester.

The most critical qualitative data received was centered on communications, flexibility, course content and instruction. The results showed what was working well for students and why their classes were successful and what wasn't working well for the students.

Ms. Mouawad asked if the survey findings could be distributed to faculty and staff in a more comprehensive form which supports the improvements students recommended for spring 2021. She also would like Senate to formally approve the document.

President Versaci offered to send out the results two weeks prior to the spring semester to give faculty an opportunity to incorporate some of the suggestions as they plan for upcoming classes.

Senator and PD Coordinator Kelly Falcone stated that she shared the findings with the DE Committee during their trainings and workshop discussion. Falcone hopes that the document can be distributed sooner as faculty are designing their spring classes and because much of the feedback was centered on course design. She also hopes that after reading the results, faculty would volunteer to offer a workshop in specific and needed areas. In addition, Senate and ASG could collaborate to offer a “findings” workshop during plenary that highlights specific recommendations.

Due to the lengthy nature of the report, Senator Wendy Nelson suggested writing an executive summary to share and then make the full report available. Nelson also volunteered to assist Mouawad with that task.

Senate VP Fererro added she was saddened to read that so many students had negative experiences with online classes this semester. She thinks that faculty has many tools at their disposal to do great things with their classes, but faculty also has the ability to be gracious and not be such sticklers for things when everyone has struggled with deadlines and technology issues with ZOOM. It seems some faculty are holding students to standards that are overly harsh. Fererro added that she thinks there's a great opportunity here to improve course design sooner for spring by pushing some of this information out to faculty right away in the hopes that some are still engaged during the break.

Motion 4 MSC: Towfiq/Fererro

Faculty Senate approval to move back into Action.

Abstention: Anastasia Zavodny

The motion carried.

Motion 5 MSC: Laughlin/Fererro

Faculty Senate approval to distribute student survey findings to faculty once an executive summary has been added and the document is finalized.

Abstention: Anastasia Zavodny

The motion carried.

Senate President Versaci will distribute the document to all faculty once he receives it back in its final form from Ms. Mouawad.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 1:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Molly Faulkner, Secretary