**Faculty Senate Minutes**

December 11, 2024

3:00 PM

Live Oaks Room

**Members Present:** Cynthia Thomas (President), Julie Gill (Vice President), Rusty Gaspard, Matthew Stokes, Jacob Whitmore (Secretary/note taker), Jialin Lei, Cole Franklin, Beverly Alwell, Guoyi Ke, Christof Stumpf (Parliamentarian), Jennifer Innerarity, Lisa Bradford

**Members Absent:** Sona Kumar

**Guests Present:**

Ahmed Sleman, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Computer Science

Elizabeth Duck, MHI, MLS (ASCP) CM, Assistant Professor of Allied Health

**Welcome and Determination of quorum:** The meeting came to order at 3:02 p.m.

**Brief guest updates:**

No guests present

**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes:**

* Motion to Accept Minutes from 2024-11-13 Meeting:
  + Motion: J. Gill, Second: C. Stumpf
  + Approved: 12-0-0

Vote to seat Sarah Barnes as an unofficial alternate for Sona Kumar (Allied Health):

* + Motion: J. Gill, Second: C. Stumpf
  + Approved: 12-0-0

**Report of President:**

Cynthia Thomas discussed the following:

* Adam Lord and Mira Parks of Strat Comm will offer Canva training to faculty (potentially return week of Spring 2025). They agreed to be responsive to all requests. The process is still that Department Chairs must make requests for departmental communications, but those in charge of specific programs can do it themselves, too. They also suggested that student workers could help with Canva tasks. They asked for as much lead time as possible on requests.
* The library is working on getting prices for all databases and journals requested, with SLT support for funding as much as is appropriate and economical. Discussion ensued about student database use and ensuring that these databases were in fact used.
* She asked that all departments urgently analyze any documents that will go into Curriculog and through C&C. She stressed the importance of ensuring there are no errors to make the process as streamlined as possible.

**Reports of Committees**:

**Ad-Hoc Committee Reports given by Julie Gill**

**Courses and Curriculum Committee:**

* Motion to accept C&C minutes from 2024-11-18:
  + Motion: M. Stokes, Second: B. Alwell
  + Approved: 13-0-0
* There were numerous new courses proposed through C&C and a new degree.
* These minutes will be sent out and reviewed by the Senate and all changes will be reviewed at the next meeting.

**PS 209 Ad Hoc Committee:** Not Discussed

**PS 202 Ad Hoc Committee:** Not Discussed

**Admissions & Standards Committee:** Not Discussed

**FPPC Committee:** Not Discussed

**PR Subcommittee:**  Not Discussed

**Budget and Review:** Not Discussed

**Improvement of Instruction:** Not Discussed

**Old Business:**

P**olicy Statement Revisions**

**PS 209:**

* There was considerable productive discussion between Cynthia Thomas and Deron Thaxton, Executive Vice Chancellor of Finance, regarding the financial implications of the changes to summer pay and overload pay. He will perform analysis for all points discussed and was very receptive of all ideas presented from the Senate President regarding the PS 209 changes. There will be further meetings to discuss these points, and Deron will eventually discuss them with Cynthia and the entire Senate in January.

**PS 202:** Not Discussed

**PS 254:**

* Cynthia Thomas will bring this back before Cabinet for final approval with the requisite wording changes for faculty and staff response time.

**AI Policy:**

* This is still under development, but consideration is being given to faculty discretion while writing this policy.

**Introduction of new business:**

1. Spring Meeting Schedule for Faculty Senate

* Discussion ensued about meeting times and days, specifically for meeting frequency
* Many faculty indicated that Tuesdays would be the best day to meet.
* Due to the expected workload from C&C approvals, we agreed to meet every other week rather than twice a month.
* We agreed to start this new schedule on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 3:00 PM.

1. Meeting Structure

* SLT has expressed that they want to hear more from us, rather than them only giving us updates.
* Discussion ensued on how we can best engage with SLT in our meetings and how we can best capitalize on the opportunity to openly talk with our leaders. We agreed to come up with ideas on how to best utilize this time.
* We all agreed that we greatly appreciate the value of hearing the Chancellor and Provost’s reports about the future of campus. It is very helpful for all faculty to understand what is happening at the state level and to see the big-picture vision of the university that both Dr. Coreil and Dr. Beard can uniquely provide.

**Announcements/Looking ahead**

Next meeting: January 14, 2025

Departmental accomplishments or planned events:

Motion to adjourn: J. Gill, Second: B. Alwell

Vote: 13-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.