



FACULTY SENATE

Executive Council
May 10, 2021, 4:00 – 5:30 PM
Minutes

Present: Professors Burns, Ahern, Almstead, Beckage, Borchert, Cushman, Delaney, Eyer, Giangreco, Ikeda, Knodell, Wood

Absent: Professors Chittenden, Prue, Read

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 PM on Microsoft Teams.

Motion: Chris Burns moved to amend the agenda to add an item after the Senate Committee Reports on the Review Processes for Proposals Relating Academic Unit Structure and adjusting the time for the Senate Committee Reports, the University Finances, and the Long-Range Academic Planning Discussion. **The motion was seconded and carried**

1. **Minutes** of the April 12, 2021 meeting were approved as written.
2. **Degree Corrections.** Laurie Eddy presented requests for degree corrections from the Graduate College to correct degrees for three students who graduated in October 2020. The students should receive the M.S. in Natural Resources, and mistakenly were awarded an M.P.S. in Leadership for Sustainability.
Motion Laura Almstead moved to approve the degree corrections as presented. **The motion was seconded and carried.**
3. **Posthumous Degree.** Laurie Eddy reported that the Faculty Senate Executive Council is being asked to consider the conferral of a posthumous degree in Food Systems to be awarded to Sarah Starion '21. The request is from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the family of Sarah Starion and has been approved by the Provost's Office. Sarah Starion's academic record shows that she was a senior in Food Systems who was on track to meet degree requirements in 2021, and she meets the criteria for the award of a posthumous degree.
Motion: Terrence Delaney moved to approve the awarding of a posthumous degree in Food Systems to Sarah Starion '21. **The motion was seconded and carried.**
4. **CAC Consent Agenda.** Laura Almstead recommended the following items for the CAC Consent Agenda:

- a. New micro-Certificate of Graduate Study in Agroecology (CALs)
- b. No-contest Deactivation of the Master of Science in Engineering Management (CEMS/GC)
- c. Name Change of the Health Sciences program and major to Public Health Sciences (CNHS)

Motion: Terrence Delaney moved to put the CAC items on the Senate consent agenda. **The motion was seconded and carried.**

5. Chair's Remarks - Chris Burns made the following remarks:

- Recognition and gratitude for the tremendous work taken up by the Executive Council this year. Special thanks to Laura Almstead and Michael Giangreco as they both step down from their chair positions after many years of service. Thank you to Thomas Ahearn and Brian Beckage who are also stepping away from the Executive Council. Recognition and thanks to Thomas Chittenden as he completes his term as Immediate Past President, for his leadership and years of service to the Senate. Thank you to Laurie Eddy and Tiera Porter for successfully turning the Senate into a virtual organization over this past year.
- Initial discussions have begun on a structure for an orientation and training for Senate committee chairs. Topics of interest include Robert's Rules of Order, and best practices for navigating tough discussions. Chris will work with Evan Eyler and Tom Borchert to develop an initial structure for a fall program.

6. Senate Committee Reports

- Chairs should submit their year-end reports by Wednesday, May 12th to be circulated to the Senate with the materials for the Faculty Senate meeting of May 20th.

7. Review Processes for Proposals Relating to academic Unit Structure

Chris Burns asked that the Executive Council consider presenting the processes to the Senate as moved and seconded from the Executive Council. The draft processes have not changed since the April Senate meeting. Presenting the processes as moved and seconded will allow more time for full discussion of anticipated motions to amend. The Anticipated motions to amend include:

- Electing members to the ad hoc committee vs. appointing senators
- Change the standard that requires ad hoc review committee members be at arms-length from the Department impacted by the change
- Change the 30-day comment period to a 60-day comment and revision process

Motion: Jane Knodell moved that the Faculty Senate Executive Council recommend that the Faculty Senate approve adoption of these three procedures with the edit to Section 5 of each document as follows: Elimination of a (Department/School within a College/College or School) requires Board of Trustees approval **and would follow the required shared governance procedures required for: ...** **The motion was seconded and carried.**

8. University Finances (follow-up to April Senate meeting and May FPPC meeting)

Chris Burns stated that he has asked Jane Knodell, as the chair of the FPPC, to lead a follow-up discussion on the University finances in the Senate. Engaging the FPPC to take the lead on exploring the topic in greater detail and then facilitating discussions with the Senate will also work

to create a stronger connection between the Senate and this Senate committee. Jane will prepare summary remarks, and slides for the May Senate meeting.

9. **Long-Range Academic Planning Discussion** – Chris Burns opened discussion by stating that there is a gap in our current Senate committee structure, in that long-range academic planning is not being actively addressed by any of the current standing committees. Discussion included the need for conversation around the structure and relationship of the Senate to its committees and the appropriate number of committees. Many peer institutions have a committee focused on long-term planning and include administration on the committee membership. Long-term planning needs to happen in partnership between the Senate and the administration with a clear mechanism for shared governance. Chris Burns read the following resolution submitted by 19 members of the Faculty Senate to the Executive Council for inclusion on the May 20, 2021 Senate agenda:

A Resolution Concerning the Faculty Senate’s Authority

Whereas the Faculty Senate has been empowered to “review and establish policy with respect to... All curricular matters, including establishment, dissolution, and substantial changes of degree programs (CBL 1.1.b); and

Whereas the Faculty Senate is also empowered to “review, to recommend, and to participate in the formulation of policy with regard to institutional priorities; the allocation and utilization of the University's human, fiscal, and physical resources; academic organization, including the establishment or elimination of colleges and departments and the reorganization of the general university and college academic structure; [and] administrative procedures and organizational structure,” among other matters (CBL 1.2.a-c, h); and

Whereas in recent years, but particularly in the current academic year, administrative proposals, including substantial cuts to programs, have been brought forward publicly without clear consultation with the faculty; and

Whereas those proposals require changes to curricula, which is a clear violation of the faculty’s, including the Faculty Senate’s, authority; and

Whereas the current effort to reorganize the university originally lacked substantial faculty presence on the reorganizational working group (which was a clear case of ignoring the Faculty Senate’s authority to participate in formulation of policy) and this was only corrected in response to Faculty Senate demands; and

Whereas the principle of shared governance stipulates that Faculty and Administration collaboration in the long term planning of the University; and

Whereas Faculty Senate and Administration collaboration in long term planning has generally occurred only on an ad hoc basis;

Therefore be it resolved that the Faculty Senate design regular procedures whereby the Faculty Senate’s authority, as cited above, may be fulfilled in a robust, meaningful, and mandatory way; and

Therefore be it resolved that the Faculty Senate charge an ad hoc committee* to 1) determine those areas where new procedures for assertion of the Faculty Senate’s authority under 1.2 of the Constitution and Bylaws are needed; 2) formulate, and circulate among the faculty for comment, proposals creating regular and mandatory procedures, bodies, and roles to exercise the Faculty Senate’s authority in these area; and 3) bring final proposals designed to create regular and mandatory procedures and/or bodies and/or roles that lead to assertion of the Faculty Senate’s authority to the Senate for adoption.

Said committee shall be formed and charged before the second Faculty Senate meeting of the Fall of 2021, and be comprised of 2 faculty senators each from CAS and LCOM, 1 faculty senator each from the other major academic units; the President of the Faculty Senate will also be a member of said committee (ex officio); members shall be elected by the faculty senators of their respective units. Said committee shall report back to the Faculty Senate regularly during the 2021-22 academic year with the intent to present their proposals for review and adoption by the Senate as a whole.

*7.3 Ad Hoc Committees. Select committees may be created by the Senate, the Executive Council, or the Senate President for the purpose of studying specific problems and preparing proposals relating thereto. These committees will ordinarily be appointed by the Senate President, after consultation with the Executive Council, but may also be appointed by a majority vote of the Executive Council or of the Faculty Senate. They will terminate when their assignment is complete or within one year of the date of appointment, whichever is shortest. They may be reappointed. An ad hoc committee is directly responsible to the entity appointing it, to which it shall report.

10. Agenda for P & P Meeting – Tuesday, May 11, 2021, 4:00 – 4:45 PM

The following items were discussed as agenda items for the May 11, 2021 P&P meeting:

Year in review and year ahead: Discussion around events of the past year (managing the pandemic, academic reorganization, etc.) and what’s on the horizon.

11. Draft Agenda for Faculty Senate Meeting May 20th. Chris Burns opened discussion on the May 20th Senate meeting agenda. The agenda includes several items that may involve lengthy discussion and debate. The Executive Council considered the possibility of increasing the meeting time to 2-hours, and offered suggestions for decreasing time allotments for items on the agenda to keep the meeting time to 1 ½ hrs.

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| 3:00 | 1. BOT Chair - Ron Lumbrá [15 min] |
| 3:15 | 2. Faculty Senate President Welcome Remarks [5 min] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee Reports • Appreciation of Senators and Committee members |
| 3:20 | 3. Conferral of Degrees (vote) [5 min] |

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| 3:25 | <p>4. Consent Agenda (vote) [5 min]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of the 04/19/21 Faculty Senate Meeting • Student Affairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Inclusive Data Practices Resolution • Curricular Affairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. New micro-Certificate of Graduate Study in Agroecology (CALs) b. No-Contest Deactivation of the Master of Science in Engineering Management (CEMS/GC) c. Name Change of the Health Sciences program and major to Public Health Sciences (CNHS) |
| 3:30 | 5. Review Processes for Proposals Relating to Academic Unit Structure [15 min] [vote] |
| 3:45 | 6. Resolution Concerning the Faculty Senate's Authority (15 min) [vote] |
| 4:00 | 7. Academic Reorganization Update – David Jenemann and Academic Reorganization Working Group members [20 min] |
| 4:20 | 8. University Finances (follow-up to April conversation) – Jane Knodell (FPPC Chair) [5 min] |
| 4:25 | 9. New Business [5 min] |
| 4:30 | 10. Adjourn |

Motion: Evan Eyler moved to approve the draft senate agenda and give the President Burns authority to make minor adjustments. **The motion was seconded and carried.**

12. **New Business –**

13. Meeting adjourned at 5:52 PM.