



FACULTY SENATE

Executive Council
April 12, 2021, 4:00 – 5:30 PM
Minutes

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

Absent: Professors Chittenden, Prue, Read, Wood

Guests: Alan Maynard, Jason Garvey, Jinny Huh, Pramodita Sharma, Christa Zehle

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 PM on Microsoft Teams.

1. **Minutes** of the March 1, 2021 meeting were approved as written.
2. **Degree Corrections.** Laurie Eddy presented requests for degree corrections from the College of Arts and Sciences.
Motion: Michael Giangreco moved to approve the degree corrections as presented. **The motion was seconded and carried.**
3. **CAC Consent Agenda.** Laura Almstead recommended the following items for the CAC Consent Agenda:
 - a. No-contest Termination Dietetics, Nutrition & Food Sciences major (CALs)
 - b. Name Change Agroecology major (CALs)
 - c. No-Contest Termination Sustainable Landscape Horticulture major (CALs)
 - d. No-Contest Deactivation Consumer Affairs minor (CALs)
 - e. No-Contest Terminations 16 Secondary Education minors (CESS)

CAC Report Out – Items that do not require Faculty Senate vote

 - a. New concentrations in the existing Nutrition & Food Sciences major (CALs)
 - b. New concentrations in the existing Agroecology major (CALs)**Motion:** Tom Ahern moved to put the CAC items on the Senate consent agenda. **The motion was seconded and carried.**
4. **Chair's Remarks** - Chris Burns made the following remarks:
 - a. **Elections** – Congratulations to Evan Eyler on his election as Vice President for the 2-year term beginning July 1, 2021. Thank you to Jacques Baily for running. The election was a

close race with a good turnout from the full faculty. Ignacio López-Vicuña has been elected to fill one open seat as member at-large. Tom Ahern and Tony Julianelle are in a runoff election for the second seat.

- b. **Bylaws Referendum** – the ballot went to the full faculty and required at least two-thirds of the responses in favor to pass. The proposed amendments were approved with 94% of the votes in favor. Chris will be in touch with the Board of Trustees to determine if the amendments pass the threshold of requiring board approval.

5. **Learning Management System RFP Advisory Working Group** – Chris Burns reported that the working group is no longer asking for an Exec or Senate member, so this item has been removed from the agenda. The working group has appropriate representation, and there are other stakeholder groups, including the ERTC, involved in providing input. A survey link will be shared with the faculty.

6. **Review Processes for Proposals Relating to Academic Unit Structure** – Chris Burns opened discussion on revised processes documents that have been updated to address several of the questions that were raised at the March 22nd Senate meeting. The changes include:
- a. Addition of section numbers to make it easier to note what part of the document is being referenced.
 - b. More specific language on the requirement for voting on a proposal at the department level.
 - c. The configuration of the ad hoc committee for proposal review and the role of the CAC in the process
 - d. The 30-day comment period should not occur over the summer or winter break.
 - e. Clarity on the end of the review process. What happens if the Senate votes no?

The members of the Executive Council recommended that the revised drafts go to the Faculty Senate for additional discussion and revision. A vote on the final drafts should be moved to the May 20th Faculty Senate meeting.

7. **Academic Reorganization Update** – Chris Burns welcomed Jason Garvey, Jinny Huh, Alan Maynard, Pramodita Sharma, and Mary Cushman to offer their perspectives as faculty members involved in the main working group and three subgroups for the Academic Reorganization process. The following questions framed the discussion:

1. How would you describe the process as it has evolved over these last few months?
2. Is there meaningful faculty involvement?
3. What conclusions would you draw from the process to date about where this conversation might be heading?
4. What else would you like to share with us?

Discussion included:

- The process has evolved to focus on structure and systems. The open forums have included both airing of frustration and anger, and an opportunity for positive idea gathering. There is a huge disparity in response across campus.
- Committee work has been overwhelming and a huge time commitment
- Tensions are inherent in the process. Faculty committee members try to support the process while having to navigate interpersonal relationships with colleagues.
- Data collection and feedback from the open forums have produced a mountain of qualitative data. Concern was expressed who will do the analysis and when. Questions were raised about summer work and compensation.
- Staff are underrepresented. More staff and student voice are desired.
- Desire for President Garimella to clarify his personal vision of this entire process.

8. **Agenda for P & P Meeting** Wednesday, April 14th, 11 to 11:45 AM

The following items were discussed as agenda items for the April P&P meeting: Academic Reorganization check-in. Where things stand now. Summer and fall work. Senate role once the report is delivered on November 1.

9. **Draft Agenda for Faculty Senate Meeting April 19th.** Thomas Borchert moved to approve the agenda for the April 19, 2021 Faculty Senate meeting as presented by Chris Burns. **Motion was seconded and carried.**

10. **New Business** – Christa Zehle, Associate Dean Larner College of Medicine (LCOM), presented a request to hold LCOM commencement on May 23, 2021. Dean Zehle stated that the hooding is an important part of the LCOM graduation, and they have established a virtual format that worked well last year. LCOM is requesting to keep the May 23rd date, as it was originally announced as the date for LCOM graduation and would be a hardship for students and families to change the date. **Motion:** Evan Eyler moved that the commencement date of the Larner College of Medicine shall be moved from May 20 to Sunday, May 23, 2021. **The motion was seconded and carried.**

11. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.