

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE 2010-11 UNIVERSITY SENATE

Thursday, January 20, 2011

Members Present: 50

Members Absent: 12

1. The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson of the University Senate, Eric Kelly, at 4:00 p.m.

Roll Call was taken by initialing the roster located at the entrance to LB 125.

Members Present: C. Ball, R. Bellaver, R. Bremigan, J. Chapman, J. Coggeshall, G. Crawley, L. Deckers, A. Edmonds, J. Fry, J. Gora, J. Green, D. Grosnick, K. Hall, T. Hendricks, R. Hicks, M. Holtzman, J. Huff, R. Kanu, C. Kapinus, E. Kelly, T. King, A. Leahy, J. Ledbetter, L. Markle, C. Marlow, W. McCune, M. Miller, S. Parkinson, P. Parkison, D. Pearson, K. Pickersgill, M. Pyron, S. Rice-Snow, T. Richardson, J. Rybarczyk, D. Shawger, G. Stamp, M. Steib, D. Supa, B. Umansky, B. Wagner, A. Wieseke, B. Wills, J. Yang, J. Zhao, T. Zivney

Substitutes: Lathrop Johnson for M. Guntsche, Mitch Whaley for M. Maggiotto, Jeffrey Clark for D. Marini, Beth Terrell for C. Munchel

Members Absent: T. Cummins, R. Dolon, D. Haber, M. Harvey, J. Kim, M. McGrew, B. McRae, J. Mitchell, W. Sharp, C. Walker, K. Warren-Gordon, M. Whitlock

2. A motion was made and seconded (Pearson/Supa) to approve the revised minutes of December 2, 2010.

The motion carried.

3. There was a moment of silence to recognize the deaths of Philip H. Albright, Carson Mahan Bennett, George W. Irving, Tom McEwin

4. Committee Reports

- A. Governance and Elections Committee – John Ledbetter, Chairperson

John reported that the committee met and reviewed policies regarding the state law on ghost employment. Contract Faculty language in the handbook was forwarded to the Faculty Council for their review.

- B. Faculty Council – Barry Umansky, Chairperson

Barry reported the Faculty Council met on December 9 and heard committee reports. The Contract Faculty language in the handbook was forwarded to the Governance and Elections Committee for their review. The University Promotion and Tenure item concerning immersive learning is on this month's agenda as well as a revision to the Graduate Faculty policy. The next meeting is January 27.

- C. University Council – Barbara Wills, Chairperson

Barb reported the University Council has not met since the last meeting of the University Senate. Their next meeting is scheduled for February 3.

- D. Campus Council

Mike reported the Campus Council has not met since the last meeting of the University Senate. Their next meeting is scheduled for February 10.

6. Report by Chairperson of Senate – Eric Kelly (University Senate Agenda 9/2/10, Enclosure #3)

The chairperson of the senate reported he received word from the Provost that the Phased Retirement issue on the list is in final revisions and will be sent to the Salary and Benefits Committee in the next few weeks.

7. Questions Directed to the President

President Gora commented on the following items:

- Enrollment statistics from three days prior to the beginning of the Spring Semester indicate total on campus enrollment increased 378 students, compared to last spring. There are 440 more students compared to last spring if one combines both on and off-campus enrollment. We have made steady improvement in freshmen retention comparing spring to spring over the last 5 years.
- The next *President's Perspective* will report our progress in the capital campaign as well as announce the members of the Strategic Planning Task Force. The Strategic Planning Task Force for 2012-2017 will be under the leadership of the Provost, and they will meet over the next year.

The President responded to the following questions:

1. Any clue why the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (ICHE) chose two specific years to determine trends in 4 year graduation rates?

The President responded that graduation rates can be measured in a number of ways. The data ICHE is using does not show long term trends on our campus or absolute performance. Using all three measures would provide a more accurate picture of progress in improving graduation rates.

2. A senator mentioned that he has received flyers from local legislators asking the question: "Would you support or oppose utilizing and focusing research at state-funded universities to foster business development and job growth?" He asked the President if she was aware of this and her reaction to it.

The President responded Purdue and IU are the only universities receiving funding from this research category. We would receive funding if we were eligible to compete in this category. The Commission insists this money is reserved for the two universities. Their argument is that IU and Purdue research makes an economic impact. It is clear that we do more applied research, while they do more basic research. Nevertheless, research activity should count in this category since it also impacts economic development.

To that end, she believes our local legislators try to be helpful, and we work well with them. They come and hear our presentations, ask to be briefed, and try very hard to be supportive. We need to emphasize our impact in the State of Indiana. She encouraged everyone to promote BSU with family and friends and decision makers across the State.

8. Question and Answer Period

A senator requested information regarding the following questions:

- 1) What percentage is required for validity in student evaluations?

The Provost responded that 55% is the average, but this varies in some departments where 70% was the average and even zero in other departments.

- 2) Their department is trying to revise the plan regarding the new policy of attending commencement at least once during the academic year. Why is it still necessary to get grades in by Monday, noon, when they are submitted electronically?

The Provost will look at this again. The registrar has a firm reason, but they address the issue again.

- 3) The student evaluations in prisons – are they still done by paper? If so, who sorts them out after they are submitted?

The Provost responded that they must be done by paper and the sorting is completed by Unified Technology Support.

- 4) A senate member was concerned that a factor analysis had not been completed on the student evaluation instruction currently being used. This analysis could be completed to measure the instruments sensitivity and intercorrelation among the items used.

The Provost did not believe this has been done but will look into completing one.

At this time, the President informed the members of the Senate that she is going to endorse the recommendation approved last month concerning the academic calendar. Her concern is the 4-day final exam week. She is going to ask for an analysis to be completed in a year concerning the impact of the 4-day exam week. She is most concerned about freshmen. Other alternatives will be pursued if this poses a significant problem.

9. Unfinished Business

- A. Proposed Amendments to the Constitution – Second Reading (University Senate Agenda, 1/20/11, Enclosure #2)

A motion was made and seconded (Pearson/Crawley) to approve these amendments.

The motion carried.

- B. Suggested wording for Foreword page in Faculty and Professional Personnel Handbook

Senate Agenda Committee 11/22/10
Governance and Elections Committee 12/2/10
Office of University Compliance 12/8/10
Senate Agenda Committee 1/10/11

This handbook for faculty and professional personnel is issued by the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. The handbook contains policies, procedures, and regulations that have been approved by the University Senate, the President, and/or the Board of Trustees, as appropriate. Every effort is made to ensure that all additions, modifications and deletions to these policies, procedures, and regulations are reflected in the handbook as soon as possible after their ~~final approval~~ effective date. The most current version of the Handbook is the on-line version and that should always be consulted. The on-line version can be located on the Ball State University website at: <http://www.bsu.edu/hrs/media/pdf/facultyhandbook.pdf>.

The Chairperson reported this item does not need senate approval and should have been in the announcement section of the agenda. There was discussion concerning the handbook web address and if it should be included.

The link appeared to be broken when attempted at the senate meeting. It was explained that there are broken links right now on the website because of the switchover to Sitecore from Vignette. This should be resolved in the very near future.

10. New Business

There was no new business.

11. Other Items

There were no other items.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Kapinus, Secretary

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