

Faculty Senate Meeting Summary Notes
11am, Manderino Room 408
4/4/19

Present: Laura Giachetti, Jayna Bonfini, Clover Wright, Peter Heh, Cassandra Kuba, Robert Mehalik, Keat Murray, Louise Nicholson, Loring Prest, Samantha Procaccini, Jennifer Ramsey, Kirsten Schaffner, Paul Sible, Ryan Sittler, Mathilda Spencer, Randy Tillmutter, Ellen West, Jennifer Wilburn

Call to Order

1. Review/Approval of 3/7/19 Summary Notes – deferred

Old Business: After new business completed, returned to old business agenda items.

2. **Faculty Senate Mission Statement Proposal & Subcommittee** - (Members: Loring Prest, Bob Mehalik, & Robin Weaver) update and proposal: During the last meeting the proposed senate Vision & Mission Statement, and Scope of Faculty Senate paragraph was introduced. Called for discussion. A suggestion was made to eliminate of “As an extension of California University of Pennsylvania” (Ryan Sittler moved/Jennifer Willburn second); the removal of “will” after and; and the removal of “academic” preceding leadership (Loring Prest/Ellen West). Finally, the addition, under Scope of the faculty Senate, the addition of a comma after promote in the first sentence and the addition of a comma after University in the third sentence of the proposal (Keat Murray/Ryan Sittler). All Senators approved the vision, mission and scope of faculty Senate with the minor changes as stated above.
3. **Faculty Senate Administration Evaluations Subcommittee** - (Members: Loring Prest, Ryan Sittler, Mario Majcen, Jennifer Ramsey, & Robin Weaver) update- B. Mehalik will administer Administrative surveys as has been the practice for 2 years. In the Fall, Provost Barnhart will attend a faculty session to share the results of the survey. The subcommittee will explore updated the questions for next year’s administrative evaluations.
4. **Shared Governance Issue: Should prayer be included in commencement?**
Discussion and proposal: At the last meeting the Senate approved a resolution to remove religious elements from commencement ceremonies. Due to lack of time, the preamble portion was not addressed. After the meeting B. Mehalik talked with Pete Weir to inform him of the Senates actions. At today’s meeting, following discussion, the preamble portion (the “Whereas” statements) were approved by the Senate. B. Mehalik will present the resolution with the preamble to the Student Government, after which, the Senate will present this resolution to Administration.

5. **Shared Governance Evaluation (Middle States, Standard VII)** – update – deferred.
6. **Faculty Senate Proposed Schedule Change Subcommittee** – (Members: John Paul “JP” Staszal, Jayna Bonfini, Ryan Sittler, Mario Majcen, Louise Nicholson) – update

New Business

7. New agenda item: Keat Murray addressed the senate to put a request out to senate members and faculty in general to consider volunteering on a General Education Assessment Committee. Sarah Downey is chair of this committee, she is currently gathering artifacts from all Gen Ed special experience and writing intensive courses. The Education Assessment Committee, chaired by Sarah Downey, has been will be asked to complete a review, using a committee designed rubric to assess the artifacts submitted. This committee members will be expected to attend a ½ hour training by Sarah. Artifact assessment can be completed remotely. The deadline for completing all assessments in July 2019. Robin Weaver, Jennifer Wilburn agreed to volunteer. Bob Mehalik will send out an email to all departments announcing this community service request.
8. Ryan Sittler, representing the University-Wide Curriculum Committee, was approached by Craig Smith requesting input on course caps for F2F and online courses. R. Sittler explained that the UWCC is in process of addressing course cap issues. UWCC seeking volunteer(s) from senate to join this subcommittee to complete this task. Robin Weaver and Jennifer Wilburn agreed to join this subcommittee.
9. **Mr. Seth Shiley (Student Government President) & Mrs. Melissa Dunn (Director of Student Activities & Programming / Leadership):** The guest speakers discussed Student Government’s role on campus, upcoming initiatives, and possible collaborative opportunities. Seth Shiley introduced himself and reported on the many activities in which the Student Government participates. 1. He discussed the role of Student Government President and explained this year additional officers were added. 2. Student Government participates in “Rise Against Hunger”, sending 10,000 meals overseas to those in needed. The program “Rise Against Hunger has sent a total of approximately 2 million meals. 3. Student Government is working with California Borough to secure student representation (nonvoting) on the Borough. S. Shiley explained that California High School has already secured this type of position on the Borough. 4. Student government in interested in promoting shared governance and facilitating student participation in shared governance on campus. S. Shiley has already been in discussion with counterpart at Slippery Rock University to discover how their processes are set-up. S. Shiley stated that student government would be interested in working cooperatively with Faculty Senate to distribute a survey to assess current perceived state of shared governance on campus. B. Mehalik to meet with Student Government to facilitate this

cooperative effort. Q & A response. There are 20 Senators, 19 Cabinet members, and House of Representative involved in Student Government. Finally, S. Shiley discussed the various strategies that Student Government uses to encourage student engagement in Student Government.

10. Next meetings: May 2nd

Announcements

Adjournment 12:03

R. Weaver, Recorder

Article II. PURPOSE

Section 1. Vision Statement

The Faculty Senate will promote intellectual life at the California University of Pennsylvania and contribute to the academic excellence, service, and leadership of the University

Section 2. Mission Statement

The mission of the Faculty Senate is to be a deliberative, representative body of the faculty that considers all topics of concern to the faculty, and participates in shared governance by communicating recommendations to the University administration.

Section 3. Scope of the Faculty Senate

It is in the finest tradition of the academy that the faculty gathers together in a formal and democratic fashion to articulate, promote, and defend the ideals of a university. Those chosen to represent their colleagues shall be known as Senators and the body to which they belong shall be called the Faculty Senate.

The Faculty Senate shall be concerned with all issues of importance to the University, including academic freedom, scholarship, self-governance, curriculum, and academic and professional standards.

Because the Senate is an independent body, it is free to pursue, without restraint, all issues of importance to the University. The Senate, when exploring these important university issues, may seek counsel from persons and entities both within and without the University. In its advocacy role, the Senate may sponsor forums, hold debates, and create committees to deliberate these important issues. Conclusions arrived at through these deliberations may result in recommendations to the University Community.

Nothing within these Senate bylaws shall be construed as usurping the rights, prerogatives, or scope of influence granted the Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties (APSCUF), the sole and exclusive bargaining agent for faculty members at California University, as expressed in the operative Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

Approved 4/4/19