

Faculty Senate
McCormick Room, Collins Library
Minutes of the March 28, 2016 meeting

Senators Present: Kristine Bartanen, Bill Beardsley, Kena Fox-Dobbs, Bill Haltom, Robin Jacobson, Nakisha Renee Jones, Andrea Kueter, Brendan Lanctot, Pierre Ly, Amanda Mifflin, Siddharth Ramakrishnan, Mike Segawa, Jonathan Stockdale, Ariela Tubert, and Jennifer Utrata

Guests: Janet Marcavage

1. Chair Tubert called meeting to order at 4:03 p. m.

2. Announcements Ly described the current state of faculty elections.

3. M/S/P Approve the minutes of March 7.

4. Updates from liaisons to Senate Standing Committees. Mifflin noted that a recent decision of the Curriculum Committee would arise later in this day's agenda.

5. Updates from ASUPS and Staff Senate representatives.

Jones announced that Noah Lumbantobing will replace her as ASUPS President

Kueter reported that the annual basket raffle to raise money for the "Rosa Beth Gibson Book Scholarship" was to be held on Thursday and Friday of this week, that elections for the Staff Senate for next academic year would take place shortly, and that planning is underway for the annual Staff Appreciation Luncheon set for Friday, May 27th.

6. Discussion of Curriculum Committee Proposals to reduce the number of teaching days in Spring Semester. [See appendix]

Marcavage introduced proposals on behalf of Curriculum Committee Working Group II. Marcavage stated that the working group was not recommending as a group any options A-E. Senators explored what the Senate might do.

M/S/P A report be made to the faculty at the 12 April 2016.

7. Discussion of change to Scheduling Principles to accommodate a common period, continued from last meeting.

Tubert surrendered the chair and Vice-Chair Stockdale took the chair. Tubert re-introduced her motion, amended to designate noon-1:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

M/S/pending at end of last meeting: To amend the 2007 “scheduling principles” to include the following new item: “Faculty members’ involvement in the business of the shared governance of the university is essential. In order to facilitate deliberation and decision making that is most broadly inclusive of faculty colleagues, it is incumbent on the university to assure a Common Period where governance-related meeting can take place, and to maximize the opportunity for colleagues to participate during the work day. Wednesdays between 3:00 and 4:30 will constitute the Common Period. Departments should avoid scheduling classes during this time so that as many faculty members as possible are available to participate in the affairs of governance that concern the whole community from last meeting.”

M/S/P to amend the motion from previous meeting to establish 12:00 – 1:30 p.m on Wednesday as the common period.

M/S/P To amend the 2007 “scheduling principles” to include the following new item: “Faculty members’ involvement in the business of the shared governance of the university is essential. In order to facilitate deliberation and decision making that is most broadly inclusive of faculty colleagues, it is incumbent on the university to assure a Common Period where governance-related meetings can take place, and to maximize the opportunity for colleagues to participate during the work day. Wednesdays between Noon and 1:30 p.m. will constitute the Common Period. Departments should avoid scheduling classes during this time so that as many faculty members as possible are available to participate in the affairs of governance that concern the whole community.”

8. Discussion of Sleeve Policy at the Fitness Center

Tubert re-assumed the chair.

Senators informally discussed a memorandum from Alex J. Teesdale asking the senate to discuss the policy at the fitness center that gym members be required to wear sleeves. The Faculty Senate informally concluded that the senate has little or no authority over policies at the fitness center.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p. m.

Minutes discharged by Bill Haltom

Respectfully submitted,

Pierre Ly

Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Appendix: Curriculum Committee Proposals to reduce the number of teaching days in
Spring Semester

Curriculum Committee Working Group II

Lisa Ferrari
Chris Kendall
Janet Marcavage (Lead)
Kieran O'Neil

Senate Charge to the Curriculum Committee: Craft proposal(s) to reduce the number of teaching days in spring semester; report back to the Senate.

We present the following options to reduce the number of teaching days in the spring semester from 72 days to 67 days, to match the number of days in the fall semester. We have discussed the pros and cons of each as a working group and with Registrar, Brad Tomhave.

Calendar Option A: The spring semester ends a week earlier.

Pros:

- If the spring semester ended sooner, the summer session could potentially start sooner, and allow for more grading time at the end of summer.
- Students can begin summer employment and internships sooner.

Cons: None identified.

Calendar Option B: The spring semester begins one week earlier and ends two weeks earlier.

Pros:

- More students would be on campus for the MLK day celebration and it can be incorporated into classes.
- If the spring semester ended sooner, the summer session could potentially start sooner, and allow for more grading time at the end of summer.
- Students can begin summer employment and internships sooner.

Cons: None identified

Calendar Option C: The spring semester begins a week later.

Pros: None identified.

Cons:

- Starting later interferes with the Martin Luther King Day celebration; this would mean that students would not be on campus to participate in the celebration.
- Winter break is already lengthy and seasonal work is less available later in January.

Calendar Option D: Intersperse days off throughout the semester.

Pros: None identified.

Cons: This can be disruptive to teaching and assignments.

Calendar Option E: Extend spring break to two weeks.

Pros: None identified.

Cons: This large amount of time away in the middle of the semester may be disruptive to student learning in a course.