

Faculty Senate Meeting February 18, 2022, Reynolds 222

Attendees: Scott Anderson, Sudeepa Bhattacharyya, Kris Biondolillo, Donna Caldwell, Hrishikesh Desai, Joanna Grymes, Shivan Haran, John Hershberger, Katie Hill, Gabriel Horowitz, Amy Hyman, Natalie Johnson-Leslie, Cheryl Knight, Suzanne Melescue, Amanda Mohler, Carlitta Moore, Nikesha Nesbitt, Jake Qualls, Robert Robinette, Day Day Robinson, Amany Saleh, Ed Salo, Richard Segall, Marcus Tribbett,

Proxy Attendees: Ben Poku for Jessica Camp, Addie Fleming for Matt Harmon, Ed Salo for William Maynard, Sarah Kendig for Bill Stroud,

Absentees: Than Boves, Bert Greenwalt, Annette Hux, Pradeep Mishra, Tim Oliver, William Rowe, Eric Scudamore, Rollin Tusalem, LTC. Morgan Weatherly

Meeting Called to Order: Donna Caldwell established a quorum. The meeting was called to order at 3:02 pm by Donna Caldwell

Order of the Day: Motion to accept with addition to New Business (Food Pantry) made by Kris Biondolillo, Carlitta Moore seconded, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes motion made to approve January 21, 2022 minutes with correction in attendance by Kris Biondolillo, Amy Hyman seconded, motion carried.

Guest Speaker:

Shelley Gipson- Faculty Handbook Updates- Explained the process

1. Summer group was formed. Their goals were: making the document more readable, making stylist changes, adding links, and working with different offices on campus such as Human Resources to check for consistencies in policy and procedures
2. In the Fall Semester the Faculty Handbook Committee began working through each section. The forward and Section 1, once completed was sent to SGOC. It was then determined that the only constituency group to review was the Faculty Senate. The Forward and Section are now available for review by the Faculty Senate.

Old Business:

Committee Reports: N/A

Constitution and Bylaws: Discussion and legal is now complete and today comes before the Faculty Senate for vote. A motion was made to approve the updated Constitution and Bylaws by Kris Biondolillo, Ed Salo seconded and the motion carried with one abstention.

New Business:

Mask Discussion: The Chancellor recently announced changes in the mask policy at A-State- masks are now only required in the classroom. The Provost asked Donna Caldwell to bring this change before Faculty Senate for discussion. Several senators voiced that they would like to see the mask requirement remain in the classroom. There was a question as to when the mask

requirement will be completely gone. There was a suggestion that the requirement be re-evaluated at the end of the semester. Also suggested that once the requirement is completely lifted that a statement from the chancellor be sent reminding that those who choose to continue to wear masks not be shamed for doing so. Another suggestion is that as long as Craighead County remains in the Red Zone, masks should be required. Discussed faculty options if students are not compliant with wearing a mask in the classroom – advised to turn them into student conduct. Suggestion that contingency language be added to statements that requirements may change as the situation changes.

Food Pantry: Caleb Webb is requesting recycled plastic grocery bags, the Food Pantry is in short supply. Donna Caldwell asks that senators bring bags to the next senate meeting and ask other faculty to contribute too.

Other Business:

Open Forum: N/A

Donna Caldwell adjourned the meeting at 3:44 pm