

Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, February 14, 2019
(McKeel Room)

Call to Order

Faculty Senate Chair, Dr. Thomas Montoya, calls the meeting to order at 11:00am.

Roll Call

Senators present: Drs. Haley Armstrong (HUM), Xinhua Bai (PHYS), William Cross (METE), Karen Braman (MCS), Dan Heglund (CABS), Randy Hoover (ECE), Frank Matejcik (IE), Kelli McCormick (MEM), Todd Menkhaus (CBE), Thomas Montoya (Chair), Darrin Pagnac (GEOL, GEOE), Kayla Pritchard (SS), Marc Robinson (CEE), Albert Romkes (ME, Secretary), and Michael van der Heyden (PE).

Also in attendance: Drs. Lance Roberts (MEM, Department Head) and Paula Jensen (IE).

Approval of Agenda

Motion made to approve the agenda, received a second, and passed by voice vote

Approval of Minutes

Consideration of the minutes of the January 17, 2019, meeting and the recent All-Faculty Meeting (Jan. 29) are postponed till next meeting.

Report from the Chair

Notes from the All-Faculty Meeting, held on January 29, 2019:

- Dr. Haley Armstrong (HUM) has volunteered to serve on the VP of Finance search committee.
- Registrar Phil Hunt provided an update on the proposed change in common hour exam policy. No progress has been made since December, since the workgroup is currently awaiting the response from one academic department.
- There was no news regarding any re-instatement of child daycare services for faculty and staff.
- Concerns regarding the University workload model were discussed with Provost Kouris. Faculty have indicated that completion of the workload sheets is extremely time consuming and expressed concerns on the merit of the workload model if reports indicating a workload exceeding a 100% (i.e., >40hrs/wk) effort are inadmissible and rejected. The Provost agreed that any workload model/reporting should not be time-consuming and was open to a revision of the workload model. Dr. Kelli McCormick (MEM) subsequently volunteered to share a draft of a simplified version of the workload, which has been distributed among the members of the Faculty Senate.

New Business

- A. University Curriculum Committee (UCC): motion to consider a list of new courses, course modifications, a plan for a new (undergraduate) program on *Business Management in Engineering and Science*, and an intent to plan for a new MS program in *Green Chemistry*, which were approved by UCC during its meeting on February 8, 2019 (see also http://sdmines.sdsmt.edu/cgi-bin/global/a_bus_card.cgi?SiteID=424050). Dr. Lance Roberts (department head, MEM) and Paula Jensen (IE) were present to address any questions/concerns senators might have about the proposed new *Business Management in Engineering and Science* program. Dr. Roberts provided a short presentation on the details of the program, which will be offered in collaboration with Black Hills State University. Some discussion followed and included questions about the choice of name for the new program (which is not final, yet), whether the new program would allow transfer credits for courses from other departments that overlap with its courses but are not exactly identical (the new program would most likely accept those credit transfers), whether the new program would simply redistribute students among programs rather than recruit additional students to the university (it is anticipated it would lead to additional enrollment, though some redistribution is inevitable), and what the anticipated sustainability of the new program would be. Next, the discussion focused about the proposed *Intent to Plan* by the CABS department for a new MS program in *Green Chemistry*. Dr. Dan Heglund (CABS) volunteered to address any concerns or questions. These primarily focused on concerns regarding the sustainability of the program. Would graduate student enrollment be sufficient to satisfy the 4, 7, 10 rule, to enable course offerings? Would the program be able to produce 15 MS graduates over a period of 5 years, as is generally the expectation for the sustainability of graduate programs? One concern involved a proposed *teaching experience class*. It was not clear that such a course would be appropriate within the proposed program. Therefore, a decision regarding its implementation would require scrutiny in any future consideration of a final plan for the program. UCC's motion was approved by voice vote.

Old Business

- A. Tuition reduction for children of faculty and staff: nothing new to report.
- B. 'Buyout' policy at SDSM&T: nothing new to report as of now.
- C. Workload document: Dr. Kelli McCormick distributed a copy of the 'simplified' workload document she mentioned during the All-Faculty meeting on January 29 (see previous notes) to the Faculty Senate and noted that this document has since been approved by Provost Kouris. This document requires substantially less time (~5 mins) to complete and Dr. Karen Braman (MCS) mentioned that this workload document was accepted/approved by the faculty in MCS. Discussion followed on whether workload is percentage effort or actual workload report. Provost/administration considers it as a percentage effort.

Other Business:

Dr. Pritchard: there are currently two bills considered in state legislature that could affect SDSMT, as noted by President Rankin in his recent *First Fridays* monthly email. These bills are HB 1087 and SB122 and concern topics such as allowing Campus Safety officers to be armed, requiring all college students to take 3 credit hours of US history and 3 credit hours of US Constitution, protecting freedom of speech, and promoting intellectual diversity on campus. Faculty are encouraged to find out more about the content and potential impact of these bills, if enacted, and reach out to their respective state senator and representative.

Adjourn

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 12:27.