

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

November 2, 2021

Present: Basler, Chrobak, Cole, Cortes, Dilkes, Elannani, Fuller, Heath, Hudson, Johnson, Jurmu, Kim, Krueger, Kurtz, Loewenstein, Manning, Matson, Otto, Palmeri, Panske, Smolinski, Stojilovic, Stuart, Szydlik, Tirel, Weglarz, Wagoner, Wren

Excused:

Absent:

Guests: Kim Langolf, Stephen Kercher

Administration Representative: John Koker & Carmen Faymonville

Senate of Academic Staff Representative: Laura Smolinski

University Staff Senate Representative: Linda Koon - absent

Oshkosh Student Association Representative: Jacob Fischer

Access Campus Report: Jurmu/Tirel/ Weglarz

Minutes in Brief

At the November 2, 2021, meeting of the Faculty Senate, reports of the Senate of Academic Staff, and Access Campus were given (no University Staff today), and the minutes of the October 19, 2021, meeting were approved. Guests were Kim Langolf with COVID updates, and Dr. Kercher and Provost Koker shared the Faculty Workload recommendation and gathered feedback. Action items included committee appointment: Student Scholarly & Creative Activities Board, APC Membership & Charge tabled until next meeting, and an APC form C. Faculty Workload and TTC recommendations for Instructional Academic staff were discussed. President Szydlik provided updates from the Conference on Shared Governance and Faculty Representatives meetings. The meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

President Szydlik called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

I. Guest – Kim Langolf – COVID Updates:

National, state, and local cases of Covid are trending downward at a rapid pace. In the last month they have dropped 30%. The UWO positivity rate (for those tested) is below 1%. Last week, there were 4 positive cases out of 1000+ tests given.

The testing mandate for vaccinated students has been lifted. The testing mandate for unvaccinated students and staff in the residence halls remains in place. Faculty, staff and students are still able to get a test at Albee if desired. Mask requirements are still in effect. Current vaccination rates: 73% of students are vaccinated and 77% of faculty and staff are vaccinated.

As of Monday, November 1st, booster shots are available (Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson). As of Wednesday, November 3, Flu vaccines are also available at Albee. All vaccines are free.

Discussion: Two faculty members who noticed dramatic increases in the absentee rates in classroom attendance are curious whether absences are due to Covid. Provost Koker reported that the DOS office is operating under normal protocols, however they have issued more excused absences in September than in entire previous semesters. Excused absences are not all due to Covid.

The Provost also noted the evening occupancy of Polk Library is low. The Provost and Deans have met to address this concern.

Other faculty feedback included lower test scores and concern over student retention. Provost Koker noted the transition back to face-to-face classes is taking longer than expected. Attendance at Campus-wide events is also far lower than normal. A faculty group has been formed to address academic support as it is related to Covid protocols.

II. Guest – Stephen Kercher/Provost Koker – Faculty Workload and Feedback

Dr. Kercher reported that the Faculty Workload working group (Drs. Siemers, Cotti and Kercher) met five times during the summer and several more times this fall. The delegation also met with the deans. The topics of equity, opportunity, and accountability were central. Recommendations were presented to Provost John Koker on October 27th. The three faculty members are planning an ambitious way forward to create policy to enact the recommendations.

Dr. Kercher highlighted two portions of the recommendations: Under point 2: Standards – Research release time should include conducting independent studies, mentoring student research and creative activity, and advising Honors Theses. Under point 4: Evaluation and holding faculty accountable.

He tied the overall effort to the university strategic plan. Might we redefine ourselves as a more research-focused university?

Provost John Koker is in favor of finding ways to allow teaching to be reassigned to research and other creative activities. He would like to align the reassignment of teaching hours with the new strategic plan of becoming more research focused as an institution. Planning must begin now to achieve this goal within 5 – 10 years.

Discussion: One COLS faculty concern is a decrease in research proposals in the past few years. A natural sciences professor commented that labs only counting as 2/3 of an SCH resulted in the faculty not having time to work with the students. Questions followed about why Service is not cause for reassigned time. Dr. Kercher responded that the workgroup would advocate for service to be compensated, however that topic was not included in the report.

III. State of the University

- A. Senate of Academic Staff (Smolinski) – The senate met on October 21st. Discussed starting before Labor Day and then, take a break in the Fall. United Way asked for 1.7mm funding for this year's drive. Focus on

recruitment included billboards, Bucks and Brewer games, and marketing to help increase headcount.

B. University Staff Senate (Koon) – No report.

C. OSA (Fischer) – Recently passed a resolution on the University Studies Program which approved of the revision of the global citizen requirement for transfer students. Suicide prevention training will start soon. OSA will work with the Counseling Center. Students will be growing mustaches during the month of November to support men's health, specifically prostate cancer

D. Access Campus/Collegium

Fond du Lac: Michael Jurmu reports that they are finishing responses to the strategic plan questionnaire. They are having a food drive and hoping for 150 items in honor of the Sesquicentennial celebration. The box for donations is in the Solution Center.

Fox Cities (Tirel/Weglarz) – nothing to report.

IV. Minutes of October 19, 2021

The October 19, 2021, minutes stand approved as distributed.

V. Action Items

A. Committee Appointments – Student Scholarly & Creative Activities Board – David Demezas & David Fuller

MOTION: 1st Jurmu / 2nd Kurtz moved approval of the committee appointment. (Abstentions 0) (YES 27) (NO 0) Passed Unanimously

FS 2122-07 The Faculty Senate approved following committee appointments – Student Scholarly & Creative Activities Board – David Demezas & David Fuller.

B. Committee Appointment Faculty Needed – UWO Retiree Association BOD
There were no volunteers for this position. President Szydluk indicated the offer would be shared with other groups.

C. Handbook/Policy – APC Membership & Charge

MOTION: 1st Panske / 2nd Krueger moved approval of item C.

Discussion: There were differences of opinion on whether the revised charge to the APC committee should have removed the statement about reviewing accreditation requirements. In addition, there were questions about the numbers of individuals on the committee.

There was agreement that the topic should be tabled for now and brought up at the next APC meeting.

**MOTION: 1st Hudson / 2nd Kurtz moved to table the motion.
(Abstentions 0) (YES 21) (No 0) Passed Unanimously**

**FS 2122-08 The Faculty Senate approved motion to table the Handbook/Policy –
APC Membership & Charge.**

ITEM TABLED

D. APC: Form C

1. International Business Certificate Updates

**MOTION: 1st Basler / 2nd Manning moved approval of the Form C. (Abstentions 0)
(YES 20) (NO 0) Passed Unanimously**

**FS 2122-09 The Faculty Senate approved the following APC Form C: (1)
International Business Certificate Updates.**

VI. Discussion Items

A. Faculty Workload –Highlights included:

The faculty advocacy committee recommended the Faculty Senate should endorse it and support the recommendations. The committee recommended that references to supervision of honors theses and mentorship should be removed from the document and that the accountability mechanisms should be reviewed.

Others: Public scholarship should be included and faculty research on teaching could be more prominent.

President Szydlik asked for senators to join the working group to advocate for this report and to shepherd policy to implement the recommendations. In addition, they may form another committee to make policy about compensation for faculty who assist graduate student theses.

B. TTC Recommendations for Instructional Academic Staff

Discussion suggested general disapproval of the new title, “Assistant Teaching Professor.” There was also disapproval of the plan to eliminate the existing title, “Senior Lecturer.”

Summary: Whether to endorse the recommendation of the TTC working group will be an action item on the agenda for the next meeting.

VII. Committee Reports – none.

VIII. Information Items – none.

IX. Items from Members - none.

X. President's Report

A. Conference on Shared Governance - Highlights included:

All but one campus made the 70 % by the delayed deadline of October 31, 2021.

The administration is currently having discussions about hiring Academic Partnerships (AP), an Online Program Manager company. The Senate is looking for feedback. AP is paid by revenue sharing (50% of tuition) over a period of 7 years.

Provost Koker announced there is a follow up meeting regarding Academic Partnerships scheduled for this Friday, November 5th at 1:30. This will allow for further discussion.

B. Faculty Representatives - Highlights included:

Shop UW+ – a new way of purchasing materials (e.g., lab items) is causing of problems and long wait times – please send President Szydluk your experience(s) with Shop UW+. There likely will be a substantial number of DFWs across all campuses. There is a new transfer agreement based on the 36.31 legislative act: This act makes possible the automatic transfer of 72 credits from the technical colleges to UW System universities. This may further disadvantage the access campuses. Decisions will need to be made about appropriate transfers.

Meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate McQuillan,
Recorder
(*Substitute for April Dutscheck*)