

Agenda of the Faculty Senate Meeting
April 21, 2020
WebEx, 11:30 AM–1:30 PM

- I. Convening of the Meeting – Ellen Thomas, President
- II. Approval of Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting on April 7th
- III. Report of the Faculty Senate President
 - a. Faculty Profile Pages
 - b. Vote Follow-up
 - c. IFM
 - d. Elections
- IV. CUE report and motions – see attachment (David Horntrop)
 - a. B.S. in Mechanical Engineering
 - b. B.A. in Biology (up to 8 motions)
 - c. B.S. in Biology
- V. CGE report and motions – see attachment (Sotiri Zivras)
 - a. Master's thesis-project motions and proposed implementation plan. Based on FS discussions, input from FS members, and discussions with the CGE. Motions and implementation plan were unanimously approved by the CGE
 - b. Sunsetting the MS in Biopharmaceutical Engineering
 - c. Changes in the PhD in Information Systems
- VI. Update teaching assessment committee (Maria Stanko)
- VII. OARS (Tony Rosato)
- VIII. New business

Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting
April 21, 2020
WebEx, 11:30 AM–1:30 PM

- I. Convening of the Meeting – Ellen Thomas, President
The meeting started at 11:31AM
- II. Voting Members present: A. Zhou, M. Bandelt, L. Rodriguez-Freire, D. Blackmore, D. Bunker, E. Farinas, I. Gatley, H. Grebel, R. Goodman, Q. Jones, B. Khusid, P. Armenante, N. Steffen-Fluhr, E. Michalopoulou, R. Dent, A. Borgaonkar, R. Rojas-Cessa, A. Rosato, U. Roshan, A. Anandarajan, M. Schwartz, R. Sodhi, D. Sollohub, G. Thomas, E. Thomas, Y. Perl, A. Gerbessiotis, A. Lee
- III. Non-Voting members present: J. Shafik, R. Lazer, L. Hamilton, A. Hoang, M. Kam, M. Stanko, K. Riismandel, S. Mongelli, B. Kolarevic, B. Baltzis, J. Yuan
- IV. Guests present: Sotiri Ziavras (Graduate Studies) and David Horntrop (CUE)
- V. Approval of Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting on April 7th
Motion to approve the minutes by A. Gerbessiotis. Seconded by A. Borgaonkar. Unanimous approval. 19 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstentions.
- VI. Report of the Faculty Senate President
 - a. Faculty Profile Pages
Will wait until next week to talk about course listings on faculty profile pages once we have faculty comments, will reach out to Norma
 - b. Vote Follow-up
FS approved the automatic extension of the tenure clock by one year. Dr. Deek supports this and is working on this with the PSA. In hope of making a formal announcement by the end of the week.
FS also voted to recommend suspending the use of Spring 2020 student evaluations for any promotion, tenure, and merit raise evaluations, unless an instructor opts to have them included. For uniformity, Provost Deek wants it semester based instead of class by class.
Voted to withdraw FS support for the extended add period. Provost is working on that now.
Finally, voted to table the motion regarding the election of department chairs since not in our purview. Provost working directly with Deans and Departments.
 - c. IFM
Going to hold an Institute Faculty Meeting on WebEX. Joel Bloom, Fadi Deek, Ed Bishof, Andrew Christ, and Dale McLeod will be panelists.
 - d. Elections
Some Senators are up for re-election. Waiting to hear back from their departments.

FS needs to vote on a Vice President (VP) and Executive Committee (EC). First called for nominees on March 24th. Last call for nominees for VP and EC, must be sent to Eliza Michalopoulou before next week's IFM, April 29th.

Gordon Thomas nominated for EC.

K. Riismandel suggested rethinking election process.

VII. CUE report and motions – see attachment (David Horntrop)

a. B.S. in Mechanical Engineering

Update in chemistry laboratory requirement. Motion by A. Gerbessiotis. Seconded by G. Thomas. Motion approved, 1 abstention, and 0 no.

b. B.A. in Biology (up to 8 motions)

Changes in B.A. in Biology, Accelerated B.A. in Biology/M.D., Accelerated B.A. in Biology/D.M.D., O.D. Motion by E. Michalopoulou. Seconded by G. Thomas. Unanimous approval, 0 abstentions, and 0 no.

Changes in B.A. in Biology (Cell Biology Concentration, Ecology and Evolution Concentration, Neurobiology Concentration), Accelerated B.A. in Biology/DPT, Accelerated B.A. in Biology/Physician Assistant. Motion by N. Steffen-Fluhr. Seconded by G. Thomas. Unanimous approval, 0 abstentions, and 0 no.

c. B.S. in Biology

Changes and updates. Motion by N. Steffen-Fluhr. Seconded by A. Gerbessiotis. Unanimous approval.

VIII. CGE report and motions – see attachment (Sotiri Ziavras)

a. Master's thesis-project motions and proposed implementation plan. Based on FS discussions, input from FS members, and discussions with the CGE. Motions and implementation plan were unanimously approved by the CGE

S. Ziavras: Motion 1: MS Project grades will be S and U. Motion 2: With permission of research advisor, some MS program students who intend to do a MS thesis can first register in the MS Project Course. If they get an S, they can register for the MS thesis in the following semester. Motion to start discussions by R. Rojas-Cessa. Seconded by P. Armenante.

I. Gatley: Minor concern of the use of the word "rare". Worry that in future some may think that rare means exceptional rather than just one of the possible things. Can we change the word rare to "other" in some cases? S. Ziavras: We can say "in some cases". B. Baltzis: What does it mean that they can register for both project and thesis in the same semester? S. Ziavras: It allows for a student to complete both in one semester.

B. Baltzis: Why are we eliminating the credits? S. Ziavras: To simplify the catalog.

Vote on amendment to change the language. Motion by A. Gerbessiotis. Seconded by P. Armenante. Motion approved with, 1 no, and no abstentions.

b. Sunsetting the MS in Biopharmaceutical Engineering

S. Ziavras: Wants to sunset the program because the department has not been receiving applications, and they also have the pharmaceutical engineering program available. B.

Baltzis: Is this sunsetting or eliminating the program? If it is sunsetting then it stays in the books, but if being eliminated we should remove it from the books. S. Ziavras: We'll keep it up until the last graduate. I don't believe it will come back, but the committee will not make this kind of decision as it is critical for the University.

c. Changes in the PhD in Information Systems

S. Ziavras: Changes to adopt new requirements for federal programs. Motion to approve the changes: D. Blackmore. Seconded by: E. Michalopoulou. Unanimously approved, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

IX. Update teaching assessment committee (Maria Stanko)

M. Stanko: Committee was not able to reach its goal with teaching evaluation procedure. Would like to evaluate teaching with more than a form, have more Committee members, and have collaborations with OIE and PSA. In general, there should be more discussions about teacher evaluations on a university wide level. Figure out ways to solicit feedback on forms from faculty: what people want to learn from the forms. Option to add details to questions. Also implement systematic syllabus review to see if courses are meeting guidelines, possibly create a committee to monitor this.

P. Armenante: Instructor evaluations are mixed and disgruntled students often write bad teacher evaluations. Figure out a way to compel all students to fill out evaluations instead of just the disgruntled and unhappy ones. M. Stanko: One possibility is to assign real class time, instead of personal time to do it. K. Riismandel: One way to engage more students in participating in teacher evaluations is showing that the feedback matters. R. Dent: Perhaps get more feedback from professors. M. Stanko: Would ultimately like to conduct a survey on this.

X. OARS (Tony Rosato)

E. Thomas: Without Tony Rosato here, this topic will be moved to May 5 agenda. Discuss developing a better process with students that can be reviewed and updated with OARS.

XI. New business

No new business. Motion to adjourn by A. Borgaonkar. Seconded by D. Sollohub.

The meeting ended at 12:57PM