
FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE MEETING
December 4, 2018
12:50 P.M. ENG 117

Present: Christina Carmen, Jeff Weimer, David Johnson, Tim Newman, Carmen Scholz, Mike Banish, Vladimir Florinski, Lori Lioce, Monica Dillihunt

Absent: Gang Wang, Laird Burns

Ex-Officio: Provost Christine Curtis

- Faculty Senate President Carmen Scholz called the meeting to order at 12:52 pm.
- **Meeting Review:**
 - **Bill 427 passed first reading.**
 - **Bill 428 passed first reading.**
- **Administrative Reports**
 - Provost Christine Curtis
 - You asked for an update about Morton Hall. They are starting to frame interior walls. Utility improvements are starting. They have been more responsive. They are starting the foundations for the storm shelter located in the addition. There are some sagging issues on the third floor that is getting improved. It is on schedule. Our President is good as anyone to keep schedules on time. There is another issue with the ELC driveway. As you are driving east, the first one to the right, the children have to cross that driveway to get to the playground. There was a close incident about two months ago and I have asked for another way. They are working this issue.
 - I am working on the Academic Misconduct Policy. There are several things we have to report to SACSCOC. It goes to the Chair, then Dean, then the Office of Academic Affairs.
 - Monica – One thing we discussed is plagiarism. If it isn't cited correctly, so it is accidental.
 - Provost – That would be accidental plagiarism. The action would come if it was an appeal. This would be just part of the reposition.
 - Tim – Does SACSCOC do anything with those?
 - Provost – They ask for information. The onsite can come look for files. If the offsite sees something that shows we aren't following policy. If they alert onsite, they will look at files.
 - Jeff – In some ways it seems to help us tie up loose loopholes. We need to be more vocal about informing the student what it means for accidental plagiarism.

- Provost – We have had several cases of plagiarism recently. I ask the library to focus on plagiarism. They have agreed to do that. I will be talking with the FYE instructors to have a section on this as well.
- We have to change the panel structure that was in the policy. It came to me that the panel would have the final decision. That won't go past the lawyers. I have already spoken with them. I went in and modify who has representatives and who can talk.
- Commencement is Thursday at 10 and 2:30. I hope that you will come. It is split and we need more faculty there. Jan Davis is our Honorary Degree Recipient and will be our guest speaker.
- December 11th 4 – 7 pm President has an open house at the Lowe House.
- We talked about the prerequisites class about the introductory master classes. I talked with Joy and asked her what the best way to do this is. She has developed a form that will go to the forms and get their opinion. It is an opt in. It will come back through the process for the catalogue. The change will go into banner first and then into catalogue. Will that satisfy the needs?
 - Tim – Probably, but I don't know for sure. I don't know what would count as an introductory class.
 - Provost – If it doesn't have a prerequisite already, then you have the option to put it on that listing.
 - Tim- It sounds like a step forward but I will have to talk with some people.

➤ **Officer/Committee Reports**

- Mike Banish, President
 - We have two bills to consider. I was cc'd on a note from Jeff that they are going to form a task force on indirect cost recovery. As chair of the Finance Committee, you are to sit in on the force. I also received a note that the university is going to establish the budget and planning advisory council. I think we will go with whoever is current faculty senate president.
 - Tim – It is our understanding that you are on the President Search committee. Can you give an update?
 - Mike – We met a month ago and Ron Gray is the President of that committee. We were given a list of attributes that we wanted for the individual. They were kind of standard and asked for our input for additional or take away. I can send out the attributes. They are planning to meet late this month or early January. They are going to hire a search firm. We will then start to proceed. They will screen candidates and they will start airport interviews.
 - Tim – Is this going to be posted in the Chronicle?
 - Mike - I heard they were going to, but I am not for sure. They asked us to come back with candidate names. We may just have a special FSEC meeting for anyone to come and give Lori and I input.
 - Tim – I would like to suggest that you do list it in a national listing. Sometimes we have a vacancy on are on a short fuse. This isn't the case. There should've been a national listing already. You want everyone to know that this position is open. Sometimes when there is a search firm, only those plugged in to that will show up.

- Mike – I think that Ron Gray and the board didn't want to release the position until they met with the search firm. I will email Ron and ask when these will hit.
 - Tim – My experience for a Provost search was the candidates had the questions and was well rehearsed.
 - Lori – The delay has been because they are actively searching for a Chancellor and want to have them included on the President search.
- Carmen Scholz, Past President
 - No report.
- Tim Newman, Parliamentarian
 - No report.
- Christina Carmen, Ombudsperson
 - No report.
- Lori Lioce, Governance and Operations Committee Chair
 - No report.
- David Johnson, Faculty and Student Development Committee Chair
 - I think we have the questions for the surveys ready to go. The goal is to get it distributed mid – January.
 - Provost – I received feedback from Brent and Jason Green. I will look at this afternoon and get it to you.
 - Mike – You want to take a few minutes in this December meeting to go through some of the questions and get feedback.
- Jeff Weimer, Finance and Resources Committee Chair
 - We met last Friday. We had four things on the agenda one was the bill regarding the OIT policies. The proposal on this bill was for it to be killed because it has been taken care of from other policies. We looked at Bill 424, on the website it should be numbered 425. We are going to review it and probably rewrite it. We looked at the RCEU 2019. I am excited by the progress. Student applications are on open until the 17th. We met with the Provost and confirmed our funding. We will have to start looking for distinguished speakers.
 - Mike – Has IIDR been cancelled for this year?
 - Carmen – I believe so.
 - Mike – Provost, can you look into this? As well as Research Infrastructure.
- Monica Dillihunt, Undergraduate Scholastic Affairs Committee Chair
 - No report.
- Vladimir Florinski, Personnel Committee Chair
 - No report.
- Bill 427:
 - This was submitted by Jeff. I would like to have first reading. Tim moves to adopt bill 427 on first reading. Monica seconds.
 - Tim – There was an issue with two days. Are you counting weekends as days?
 - Jeff – I could care less if you do or don't. I don't want to make it specify two business days. Calendar days would be the wording. I am talking about two study days. I have students in my Monday class and explain the final. Their head is already on their Thursday exam from their Tuesday class. When my class exam is Friday. We should allow every class to have a consistent period.

- Tim – Can I ask for some analysis? It seemed like this time the schedule is different this time. The study days are the same. Have the days changed? Have you looked at that? In the current schedule is the case if you have a Tuesday class you have a Thursday final.
- Jeff – As far as I remember, I consistently remember the Monday class as a Friday.
- Tim – I always remember by class always had a two day grace period.
- Mike – You have always had a one day grace period.
- Tim – Is this really a bill to make two study days?
- Jeff – Independent of the study days, take those out, when my class ends on Monday my final exam should be the first one up after study days. The students that walk in with Tuesday classes and have final exams on Thursday they aren't thinking about mine.
- Tim – We have one day a week classes. It may not be possible to achieve that goal.
- Jeff – It is based on the last day. Friday classes that end on Friday should be the first on exam schedule. I want to rearrange the schedule. I do not like the idea that TTH classes have to have exams on TTH.
- Tim – I think we have done that to accommodate work schedules. Every time I miss a class for makeup. The schedules are all really strange to me. I think we always have the TTH on TTH is to help with the juggling.
- Vladimir – Speaking of one time a week class it is on the last day.
- David – They would have to be exempted.
- Tim – One solution would be exempt them and leave them the way they are. I thought I was observing something peculiar about five years ago. I noticed that my scores were lower. Every time I have given a final nine days after the last class the grading was lower. From my evidence, I would say be careful how much you rearrange.
- David – I have the same experience. The further out they just get tired.
- Mike – They are done at that point. The problem is too when they have to be out of the dorms. Many have spent the last day packing rather than studying.
- David – Commencement is also affecting grading because it has moved up.
- Monica – I don't know if this has happened before. The 8:00 classes on MWF don't have exams until the 5th. The 9:40 and afternoon class has it earlier. You would think the earlier would have it earlier.
- Mike – It was like someone rolled the dice.
- Provost – There wasn't a lot of 8 am classes.
- Jeff – I am trying as a faculty member to look at it from the stance of explaining to the students about my exam but they are focused on another exam before mine. I am talking about the grace that faculty has consistently. The second point is the study period. The revelation that our sister institutions have two days, the weekends. As I recall when I was a student it was two maybe three days from last class and exam.
- Provost – It wasn't always that way at Auburn because we were on quarters.
- Mike – Let me call for a vote. All in favor. Ayes carry. 1 abstains. Passes first reading.

➤ Bill 428:

- Mike - I submitted this bill. I think we need to see if there is a correlation between the exams per day and study days.
 - Carmen – How much money does this cost us?

- Mike – If our six year graduation rate is 52% after 25 years of effort. Maybe we need to look at other factors.
 - Provost – It costs \$15K or more.
 - Tim – I move this bill for first reading. Carmen seconds. I think it is worthwhile to study.
 - Vladimir – There is a typo in the title.
 - Lori – Will this go to committee?
 - Mike- No we will pass it out unless someone wants it to go to committee.
 - Provost – If you will give me a list of universities we will look at this.
 - Mike – We want this looked at. All in favor. 3 abstain. Passes first reading.
- Agenda for FS meeting. Academic Appeals, Bill 427, and 428.
- Provost – Copyright and Academic Appeals are due December 15th.
 - Tim – We have to act on those this meeting or formally ask for more time.
 - Lori – We took open comments on the Copyright Policy.
 - Mike – Laird was going to work on the copyright policy.
 - Provost – If it is possible to get Academic Appeals done without the request of an extension that would be appreciated.
 - Mike – We will ask for more time on the copyright policy.
 - Tim – I motion to add Academic Appeals to open with comments.
 - Mike – All those in favor of the agenda. Ayes carry.
- **Miscellaneous**
- Carmen – I had an interesting conversation with a student in regards to retention, DFW grades. This student was among the number three of my class. He asked did I remember him being in my class last year and flunked. I asked how does that happen? He said I was working. If we bent over backwards to help those students that have a working background with exams, we may see a better success. The problem was simply he worked. How do we deal with this diverse student body that is forced to take on other commitments?
 - Tim – I remember sitting in a town hall ten years ago and the same thought was brought up. The answer was to take out loans and not work. It is a touch cultural question.
 - Lori – What was the age of the student?
 - Carmen – He has an associate’s degree in another field and wanted to come back.
 - Tim – I had one that came to me and he did pass. I told the student you have to come to class. He tells me the employer sends him out to do field test. It is easy for me to say to find another job. We have a lot of employers that are taking advantage of these students. Maybe there should be an agreement if you come through career services that they are limited to so many hours. The point of this isn’t their time management. If they are being truthful, the employer isn’t honoring the starting agreement.
 - Tim – We have transfer students that do need to learn time management. Students that have been here for a while are more tuned in on managing.
 - Carmen – The student didn’t need help. He was able to drop the workload. The problem is still there. We have so many students that are forced to earn a living.
 - Christina – Is that the true problem? Or the DFW rates?
 - Carmen – It was just an observation that I wanted to bring to your attention. We have all these initiatives going to retention and better grades.
 - Christina – I think our community is so enticing for our students with STEM and they want the experience. It seems industry people want experience over GPA.

- Jeff – I think about this in regards to the impact of retention. I look at the side with the student. Here is a student that comes back and says I had to do this. Did we fail that we didn't reach that student last year? Did we fail by not making the student aware that the workload would limit the student? I make that statement because of the two places I sit in engineering and science. We would do proactive advising in the past. They were forced to come back to me and sit with me. I was very proud of the students that I help track.
- Carmen – We had proactive advising in science when I first got here. Then it all became centralized.
- Lori – On our side, it was executed the best way that it could be.
- Tim – I think it would be nice if we had a two stage process making them check in with their faculty advisors. I never see undergrads for advising.
- Carmen – I used too.
- Tim – Our concern with Degree Works is masters will go the same process. We will lose those as well.
- Jeff – A lot of this I would be reluctant to propose that we go back and make it a requirement for them to visit faculty. I think the departments need to establish the policy internally based on the department needs. We informally say it, but it be formal and acknowledged. Then the upper tier wouldn't sign off until the faculty signs off.
- Tim – It seems that you could build something in banner and it has to be signed off. We used pins as a way of keeping in touch with the students.
- Lori – There are still some methods within banner. I do think that it would have to be decided upon within each department. How does it look at other universities?
- Provost – It varies.
- Carmen - There is something to be said when there is a class just for the students.
- Christina – Is the 52% retention rate the highest that it has ever been?
- Provost – Yes.

➤ Motion to adjourn 2:20 pm.