

Faculty Senate Meeting

21 June 2024



Senators present: Susan Ely, Kyle Mara, Erin Reynolds, Ashley Carter, Jessica Mason, Nick Rhew, Al Holen (Alternate for Todd Schroer), Peter Whiting, Guoyuan Huang, Kate Sherrill (Alternate for Shane White), Sri Dandotkar (via Zoom),

Additional attendees: Kristalyn Shefveland, Kenny Purcell, Glen Kissel, Del Doughty, McManus Woodend, Julie Eyink

Held in BEC Boardroom

- Called to order: 1:04 pm
- No minutes were reviewed, as this was a special session of the Faculty Senate.
- Senate Chair Report:
 - Searches for both the new provost and the new president are starting soon. Concerns were voiced about the wisdom of doing both searches simultaneously in the Provost Council and the President's Council meetings. It is understood that a search firm will be used to aid in the process.
- Provost Report:
 - There were no representatives from the Provost's office to make a report.
- New Business:
 - From a previous charge during the Spring 2024 semester, this special session of faculty senate was called to discuss the changes to the handbook in association with SEA 202. It was noted that this was not a time to discuss the merits of the bill, as it is already law. The chair also made note of the previous discussions of SB 202 on campus, including:
 - 2 previous senate meetings
 - President Town Hall
 - Special meeting for statement
 - It was noted that the changes to the handbook need to include the implementation process for SEA 202 and the codifying of the faculty annual review, which is currently implemented in practice but not documented in the handbook.
 - The chair reviewed the changes to the faculty handbook, which had been highlighted and sent out via email. New sections include:
 - A section about the evaluation of the faculty annual review with language specific to the requirements of SEA 202
 - Changes to the promotion and tenure section to include language about the faculty annual review
 - Additional language for the protection of 1st amendment rights for faculty.
 - These sections are echoed in the library promotion and tenure sections of the handbook.

- The chair noted that faculty senate can engage in discussion and provide feedback on the proposed language, but noted that SEA 202 is law and the changes being proposed are required by law.
 - It was also noted that the intent for implementation includes VP Aaron Trump presenting the changes to the Board of Trustees at the July 11th meeting, with the request that the Board of Trustees delegate the new process to the President.
 - The floor was open to discussion.
 - Discussion occurred.
 - It was noted that some changes to the proposed language may be required to be inclusive of the library process, such as using the term “appropriate academic unit” which includes both deans and library directors.
 - It was noted that the mechanics for collecting and vetting complaints is not yet finalized.
 - It was noted that the incoming Faculty Senate chair should reach out to Ken Walsh (who will be the Chair of the Council of Chairs) and suggest that they discuss the SEA 202 and its implications for faculty at the August Council of Chairs meeting and encouraging the information be disseminated to all faculty at the beginning of the Fall 2024 semester.
 - It was noted that if students can begin making complaints effective July 2024, a process for reporting, evaluating and responding to any complaints should be in place as well.
 - It was noted that a reference needs to be made to section F11 of the Handbook, which addresses Faculty Rights.
 - It was noted that a reference needs to be made to the existing grievance procedure and that the individuals formulating disciplinary action should be addressed.
 - A typo was noted, which was captured.
 - Discussion concluded.
 - A motion was made to endorse this policy with the suggested changes. It was seconded.
 - It was moved to amend the motion to state: “The senate moved to endorse the policy with recommendations for improvements captured by the departing senate chair, Kyle Mara.”
 - There was no discussion on the amended motion and it was unanimously approved.
- Meeting adjourned with no additional business to consider: 2:53 pm