

Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting

October 18, 2017

Submitted by Senate Secretary, Ralph Kennedy

Prepared by Sydney Feinglass and Ralph Kennedy

Caveat: Comments recorded are not necessarily verbatim. To facilitate open discussion, the identity of most Senators making comments or questions is not recorded. The identity of comments from Senate Officers and Senate Ad Hoc and Standing Committee Chairs are given, as is the identity of persons commenting in their official administrative capacity (e.g. CFO, Provost and College Dean.)

In attendance: Jane Albrecht, Doug Beets, Simone Caron, Stewart Carter, Anna Ciani, Christine Coughlin, Hugh Howards, Molly Keener, Ralph Kennedy, Rogan Kersh*, Christopher Knott, Mark Knudson, Pat Lord, Jason Lowe*, Hof Milam*, Sherry Moss, James (Wilson) Parker, John Parks, Sarah Raynor, Stephen Robinson, Wayne Silver, Michelle Steward, Erica Still, Neal Walls, Lisa Washburn

Also in attendance:

Tony Marsh on behalf of Michele Gillespie*

Allyn Howlett on behalf of Dwayne Godwin*

*denotes non-voting members

There were 23 voting-eligible members present, a quorum.

Welcome

President Carter called the meeting to order. Motion to approve the minutes of the September 13 Senate meeting was made, seconded, and approved.

Discussion of ongoing review of student code of conduct

Professor of Politics and International Affairs John Dinan, chair of the Judicial Council, introduced Matthew Clifford, Associate Dean of Students. Clifford discussed proposed changes in the student Code of Conduct, noting that these changes are still under discussion and commentary on them is being solicited. The public comment site is <http://go.wfu.edu/codereview>.

Clifford noted that there has been no substantial review of the code since the mid-90s. The code, and the current review, concerns only undergraduate students.

In the Q&A after Clifford's presentation there was much discussion of whether the revised code would prohibit protests of controversial speakers. The relevant part of the currently proposed revision is Section 2, number 13, "Disruption or Obstruction of University Activities" (see the site <http://go.wfu.edu/codereview> mentioned above.) Both Clifford and Dinan emphasized that only "substantial" disruption or obstruction were in question. Examples of what would or wouldn't count as "substantial" disruption or obstruction were discussed. Some faculty pushed for a definition of "substantial." Dinan characterized the current code of conduct as one that emphasized "thou shalt nots," suggesting that the revised code could be more "aspirational." Discussion was lively but inconclusive.

Campus safety

Senate President Carter noted that many students cross University Parkway and Polo Road on foot where there are no crosswalks or signal lights to get from and to their residences and to reach the athletic facilities across University Parkway from the Reynolda campus. These crossings can be dangerous. A pedestrian was struck recently while attempting to cross Polo Road.

Senate President Carter will meet with Dedee Johnston (Office of Sustainability) and will report to the Senate on what he learns from her. Executive VP Hof Milam said that there have been promising conversations with the city but that progress with the state has been slow. Milam characterized the idea of pedestrian bridges as being “in mind.” Costs would be significant—Milam suggested roughly two million dollars per bridge.

Library Faculty Membership in Senate

The Senate will vote on proposed bylaws changes governing the membership of library faculty. Should something akin to tenure, or to the process of getting tenure, be required of library faculty who serve in the senate? Should librarians in a rank parallel to that of associate professor or associate teaching professor be able to serve in the senate? A motion to amend the current bylaws was discussed but not formulated because of uncertainties about the position titles involved. President Carter will be getting suggestions regarding the language from a library faculty member and will report to the senate.

The Senate will vote on proposed bylaws changes at the November meeting. President Carter welcomed discussion on the wording of Article II, section 3 and Article III, section 6.

Proposed changes to Article II, section 3 aim to clarify the position titles faculty must hold to serve on the Senate. A senator mentioned that the new language does not include the position titles of eligible library faculty. The library faculty ranking system—which is similar to the system for tenured and tenure-track faculty—was discussed. A motion to amend the language of the proposed revisions to include “Senior Teaching Librarian” was made and seconded but was not put to a vote. The motion will be revisited after further review of appropriate library faculty titles to include.

Proposed changes to Article III, section 6 aim to clarify the appointment of Senate representatives to other university advisory committees and councils. Provost Kersh noted that relevant language is not included in the proposed changes. He will consult with President Carter.

Any revisions to the proposed changes will be circulated among the Senate prior to the November meeting.

Faculty representative to Campus Recreation’s faculty/staff advisory board

President Carter asked for a volunteer to serve as Senate representative on the advisory board. Professor Wayne Silver volunteered.

President Carter asked if there was any new business; hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 5:05 pm.