

Faculty Senate Meeting
Tuesday, January 14, 2020

Minutes

Senators Present: M. Browning (Aero/5), K. Burke (SAC/4), H. Crawford (CS/5), I. Delgado Perez (COB/5), A. Dutta (COB/5), E. Guisbert (Bio/5), C. Harvey (SOBA/3), A. Huser (Lib/5), J. Ivey (SAC/4), M. Kaya (BME/5), V. Kishore (CE/4), S. Kozaitis (Lib/5), B. Lail (ECE/5), D. Lelekis (SAC/5), R. Mehta (Aero/5), A. Nag (PSS/4), H. Najafi (MCE/4), N. Nezamodini-Kachouie (Math/3), T. Nguyen (MCE/2), J. Park (DEIS/5), B. Paulillo (Psych/4), P. Ray (OES/5), D. Sandall (COB/2), M. Silaghi (CS/5), E. Subasi (ES/5), N. Suksawang (MAE/5), T. Turgut (COA/5), A. Welters (Math/4), K. Winkelmann (Chem/4), D. Yuran (SAC/5)

Senators Absent: M. Baarmand (PSS/4), P. Converse (Psych/4), M. Lavooy (Psych/2), G. Maul (OES/3), D. Platt (ESD), R. Reichard (OES/3), R. Rusovici (MAE/3), A. Walton (COB), N. Weatherly (SBA/1)

Proxies:

Other Attendees: Mary Barker (Lib), Tristan Fiedler (BCES), Kastro Hamed (COES), Ed Kalajian, Nasri Nesnas (COES), Gordon Patterson (SAC), Ken Revay (BoT), Kathy Turner, Rudi Wehmschulte (Chem)

Call to Order

Pres. Lail called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. The minutes from the Dec. 3 (no. 150) meeting were approved.

Guest Speaker:

T. Dwayne McCay, Ph.D. President, Florida Tech

President McCay was invited to provide a general update including the status of the searches for the Executive Vice President and Provost position and an Executive Vice President of Operations, as well as the response to Clery Act reporting violations.

Dr. McCay explained that the job ads for the searches should go out next week. For the Provost position, faculty will have a significant role in the search committee. It will be a search committee of 5-7 people with at least 2-4 of those being faculty members. The Provost will oversee academics and the Executive VP of Operations will manage all non-academic components. Faculty will also be participating in the search committee for the second position. The number of candidates brought to campus for each position will depend on the quality of the

candidates, but most likely the top 4-5 will be asked to do a phone interview and then 2-3 will be invited for a campus visit. Senate Pres. Lail will be asked to be on both committees and the senate will select the other faculty members to be on the committees. New hires are expected to be in place by the fall if possible. Dr. Oyman will stay in the interim position until then. It was asked if Dr. Oyman will be a candidate for the permanent Provost position, and Dr. McCay reiterated that he had agreed to keep the job for a year or until a new person is hired. Sen. Winkelmann asked about other high-level admin positions that are still interim (in Research and Admissions) and Dr. McCay said that those people are now no longer interim and he will put out an announcement about that soon.

Clery Act Update

Dr. McCay expressed his view that newspaper coverage of the incident has tended to report only the negative aspects and that the headlines are misleading. He acknowledged that the university had made some errors, but maintained that the cases were handled appropriately and rules were followed. He explained that the individual responsible for reporting the totals to the Department of Education did not do so correctly for each of the categories, and that person no longer works here. The new numbers are being submitted this week to the Department of Education so the likelihood of a fine is very small, despite the reporting in local newspapers of a potential \$3 million fine. 53 reports were wrong and when this was discovered, the university notified the Department of Education and began working on correcting it. As a result of the investigation on this, there have been changes made to the Title IX coordinator. A new investigator was hired last year and the people who do the reporting have been replaced and there is a new Chief of Security. Two people are no longer in their jobs and there may be more changes. Dr. McCay explained that there are lots of nuances when it comes to reporting. There were 6 rapes during the time frame of 3 years. He reiterated that all 6 cases involved alcohol and all were between people that knew each other. There have been a lot of cameras, lights, and security personnel and patrols added to make campus safer. Dr. McCay stated that the goal is to have zero incidents and he wants students to feel safe on this campus.

Senate President Lail asked how information about this issue has been communicated to students and Dr. McCay said that it has mainly been done by email and social media, but there will be a student town hall coming up shortly.

Sen. Ivey asked about increased transparency given the limitations of the Clery Act (for example, incidents beyond campus are not required to be reported). Dr. McCay said that if it impacts the safety of our students then it will be reported even if it's not officially recorded by the Clery Report.

Senate Pres. Lail brought up the issue that many classrooms have no way to secure the doors from the inside, which creates a safety concern. Dr. McCay explained that the university is working on that, but it will be an expensive fix.

Dr. Nesnas asked if there are workshops by CAPPs for students given that these cases were all between students that knew each other. Dr. McCay explained that it is hard to get students to go to those workshops, but faculty can invite experts in to speak to their classes. There could also be sessions on this included in the University Experience course.

Dr. Patterson suggested that there be a statement made to parents in Gleason at the end of the semester to answer questions about safety and show statistics.

Senate Pres. Lail thanked Dr. McCay for providing these updates.

New Business

Kathy Turner, MLIS

Secretary/Treasurer, Florida Tech Professors Emeritus

Edward Kalajian, Ph.D.

President, Florida Tech Professors Emeritus

Faculty Emeritus Handbook (supplement of the main Faculty Handbook): presentation of summary of changes

A handout was distributed which summarized the changes. This can be found on the Faculty Senate website (<https://www.fit.edu/faculty-senate>). In April 2019, the new executive committee was elected. They have met almost monthly and established the following priorities for faculty emeritus: contribute to campus service and make the handbook more vital and accurate.

Pres. Lail asked that senators review the provided changes and be prepared to vote on endorsing these changes at the next Senate meeting. Sen. Ivey asked if there is a list somewhere of all of the emeriti. That list can be found on the group's website (<https://research.fit.edu/emeritus>).

Old Business

Committee Reports:

1. Excellence: Sen. Subasi will have a meeting with Sen. Baarmand this week and will have an update at the next meeting.
2. Welfare: Sen. Dutta had nothing to report.

3. Administrative Policies: Sen. Rusovici was not able to attend, but he indicated to Pres. Lail that he is moving forward with preparations for the admin survey.

4. Scholarship: Sen. Kachouie and the former committee chair could not find any guidelines, so they will be writing them for application forms for students. A draft will be presented to the Senate at a future meeting.

5. Academic Policies: Sen. Kishore has two new members from COES. He still needs more members from the other colleges, so interested faculty members should contact him.

6. TRI: Sen. Silaghi will have another meeting soon. Emails have been sent out about the mini-grant with a deadline of March 2. The task force on Senate membership allocation invites discussion on the 3 proposals that were brought up at the December meeting. Discussion on the conflict of interest issue raised in December will also be discussed at a future Senate meeting.

President's Report

This material was covered during Dr. McCay's report and under the New Business items.

UTPC and UCFPT

Resolutions were approved at the last Senate meeting. Those resolutions identified the policy for the composition of the committees. They were also approved by Dr. McCay last month. Since then, Pres. Lail has made an effort to obtain nominations for faculty members to serve on the committees. Provost Oyman is interested in getting those committees in place as soon as possible.

A list of nominees was distributed. Faculty who were eligible were asked and some were nominated by deans or other members of the administration. One-third will be replaced each year eventually as new available and eligible faculty members come up. The floor was opened for discussion.

Dr. Nesnas asked if department heads are restricted from being on the committee, and the answer was no.

Sen. Suksawang inquired about the plan to have 2 science and 2 engineering faculty representing COES, and it was clarified that although that is still the plan, right now that is not possible due to faculty availability.

Pres. Lail suggested that the vote be conducted by a show of hands for everyone on this nominees list all at once. The result was 25 votes to approve the nominees and no votes of abstention or down votes.

Senate Membership allocation

See above

AAUP recommendation regarding Institutional Conflicts of Interests and Donors

See above

New Business

Task Forces for revision of COES Promotion and Tenure criteria

Pres. Lail reminded the Senate that the guidelines for all of the other colleges except for COES were endorsed last year. Dean Carvalho agreed to form two task forces (one for tenure track and one for the teaching track) to revisit those COES guidelines and produce a revision. There will be an initial organizational and informational meeting in one week at the same time and location (Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 3:30 in the Olin Life Sciences Building, Room 201). After that meeting, faculty members will be able to volunteer to participate in the task force. COES senators are asked to attend so they can also discuss it within their academic units even if they don't want to be on the task force.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Lelekis, Faculty Senate Secretary