

Faculty Senate Special Meeting

March 25, 2025

Senator Present:

Tom Eskridge (EECS), Tolga Turgut (Aeronautics), Yakov Bercuenico-Kogan (MSE), Patrick Converse (PSY), Alan Brown (CCE), Jordon Poole (Aeronautics), William Bowman (Library), David Wilder (BA), Nakin Suksawang (MCE), Marshall Jones (PSY), Charles Bryant (Business), Angel Otero (Business Online), Wanfa Zhang (SAC), Vipuil Kishore (CCE), Robert Deacon (SAC), Pallav Ray (OEMS), Chiradeep Sen (MCE), Hamidreza Najafi (MCE), Shawn Scott (Aeronautics), Donald Platt (APSS), William Arrasmith (MSE), Csaba Palotai (APSS), Marcus Hohlmann (APSS), Sidhartha Bhattacharyya (EECS), Gary Zarillo (OEMS), Joe Montelione (SAC),

Proxies: Adam Prinkey (Proxy for Shibo Liu of MSE), Garry Burns (Proxy for Jeesica Wildman of PSY)

Senator Absent: Georgio Anagnostopoulos (EECS), Madhur Tiwari (APSS), Abram Walton (Business), Melissa Borgen (BES), Anna Muenchrath (SAC), Robert Weaver (OEMS)

Other attendees: Rudi Wehmshulte, Nick Daher, Raymond Bonhomme, Tristan Fiedler, Rick Addante, Kenia Nunes, Eraldo Ribeiro,

RE: March 25 Senate Meeting to discuss Contracts

Contracts are due April 1, so we are holding a special meeting today.

Sen. Turgut expressed concern about the rushed timeline for providing feedback on matters related to faculty contracts. He emphasized that having the president's ad hoc committee develop the recommendations bypassed the principles of shared governance. Additionally, he raised questions about several specific changes proposed by the committee.

Sen. Turgut noted this president's ad hoc committee has been in existence for 6 months, but we are only now discussing this.

He further noted that the President is asking for our opinion, but we should have more say than just an opinion due to shared governance.

Sen. Suksawang replied and said President just wants feedback from faculty.

Sen. Brown moved to accept recommendations from ad hoc committee with 2 edits –

1. Strike word “practices”
2. Strike “this is subject to change without notice”

This was seconded.

Sen. Bowman noted that the Library faculty agreed with this.

Sen. Turgut commented that there should be no rush and noted that our contract goes through this year, so we have some time. Again, note that the recommendations for our contract should come from the faculty, not the President’s ad hoc committee.

Comment – The intellectual property info in letter may be in the contract. Dr. Turgut said yes, it is included.

Sen. Hohlman supported Dr. Brown’s motion.

Sen. Hohlman asked if new faculty would get an appointment letter this year. Sen. Suksawang said likely yes, but he would check.

Sen. Eskridge said computer science faculty agreed that the 2 lines Dr. Brown noted above should be deleted.

Sen. Suksawang acknowledged that the formation of the ad hoc committee may be seen as controversial; however, he clarified that the current focus is not on voting, but solely on providing faculty feedback to the President regarding the faculty appointment letter.

Sen. Eskridge – endorses the proposed changes but there is some question about procedure.

Sen. Suksawang noted the President formed the ad hoc committee to solve the problem with last year’s faculty contract letters.

Sen. Turgut noted that it was the President’s committee, not the faculty’s committee

Sen. Jones – said President’s intent was to fix the problem and include faculty representation (shared governance); suggests we move forward

Sen. Eskridge asked about “subject to change without notice” line

Sen. Jones said they thought that line would be removed

Sen. Turgut asked if faculty had a vote on the ad hoc committee recommendations

Sen. Jones replied that the committee made a recommendation to the President and the President forwarded it to the faculty senate

Sen. Suksawang said the President made no changes to the recommendation nor was he involved with ad hoc committee recommendations.

Sen. Turgut made a motion to amend Sen. Brown's original motion to add the statement: "No change in policy or procedure will deprive the faculty member of any monetary payment that has accrued under the previous policy or procedure." This was accepted and seconded by Sen. Brown.

This was voted on and unanimously approved by the Senate with 26-0-0 vote.