

Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting

January 18, 2018

Bump Conference Room

I. Call to order

Chair Rod Rice called the meeting to order at 11:04 AM.

II. Roll call

Senators present: Drs. Andrea Brickey (MEM), Robert Corey (PHYS), William Cross (METE), Patrick Gilcrease (CBE), Mark Novak (CABS), Darin Pagnac (GEOL/GEOE), Adam Piper (IEEM), Marc Robinson (CEE), Albert Romkes (ME), Charles Tolle (ECE), and Frank Van Nuys (SS), John Weiss (MCS for Mengyu Qiao), Coach Jason Henry (Athletics) and Professor Deb Mitchell (HUM)

III. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved by voice vote.

IV. Approval of minutes

The minutes of the December 6, 2017 meeting of the Faculty Senate were approved by voice vote.

V. Report from the Chair

Dr. Rice included the following material in his report from the chair. There were 700 students on the Fall 2017 Dean's List. The February Legislative Budget Hearings changed their procedure: Each school will now have 35 minutes total, which includes a 5-minute opening, a 10-minute budget review, a 10-minute school overview, and 10 minutes for questions. Dr. Rice also reported that President Rankin is set to come to the Winter All-Faculty meeting, set for February 6 at 4:00 in CBEC 2228. The format will be open forum and will include some pre-prepared questions from the Senate and faculty.

Dr. Rice announced that the Chamber of Commerce will host two legislative cracker barrels, January 27 and February 24. The College Republicans will also host one in mid-March. John Thune has been invited to be the spring commencement speaker but has not accepted yet.

A recent article appeared in the Rapid City Journal about the relative salaries of BA/BS degree holders and non-degree holders. The Board of Regents provided information that identified inconsistencies in the story, including the following:

- The lower percentage of good jobs held by BA/BS degree holders in South Dakota is due to the low number of bachelor's degree holders in the state. Bachelor's degree holders represent 31% of the workers in the state, yet disproportionately hold 45% of the good jobs.
- Only 14% of the workers without a 4-year degree in SD have a job paying more than \$55,000 per year.

The Student Success Center updated the Cabinet concerning their recent activities.

Dr. Rice said that with the arrival of Dr. Rankin, the Executive Council will be focusing on how Mines can respond to new issues and challenges the institution will face over the next 3-5 years. Among others, accreditation, enrollment, fundraising, research, and salaries came up. Salary is important because of the implications for recruitment and retention of top-level faculty.

VI. Committee reports

Committee reports were covered in old and new business.

VII. Old business

The Faculty Senate still needs a new webmeister. Dr. Rice said he would talk to ITS to see if they can help. Dr. Weiss expressed interest in taking over this role for spring semester.

VIII. New business

A. The Senate discussed possible questions that could be posed to for Dr. Rankin at the All Faculty meeting. Among them were:

- What are his priorities and plans for fundraising?
- What is his general plan for SD Mines? How does this correlate with the current Strategic Plan?

After discussing other possibilities, Dr. Rice asked the Senate to query their respective departments, collect questions, and send them to him so he could sift and weigh the information and compile a list for the meeting.

B. Emeritus Faculty Request for Dr. Weiss

Dr. Weiss's emeritus request was discussed and approved by voice vote.

NOTE: The SD Board of Regents have changed the procedure for universities to grant faculty emeritus approval. That authority now rests with institutional presidents and the Regents have removed themselves from the process. SD Mines Policy IV-17 is being modified to correspond to the new procedure. This new policy will be published soon.

C. Faculty Senate Chair Nominating Committee

Drs. Corey and Piper had previously volunteered for the committee with Dr. Piper agreeing to be the Committee Chair. Drs. Gilcrease, Sobolev, and Van Nuys volunteered to fill the remaining three positions. The committee is now activated and will begin building a slate of candidates.

IX. Other

X. Adjournment

The next Senate meeting was set for Thursday February 8, 2018 at 11 AM in the Bump Lounge. The Senate adjourned at 11:55 AM.