

Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting
Wednesday, December 5, 2018- Approved 1/17/2019
(Bump Lounge)

Call to Order

Faculty Senate Chair, Dr. Thomas Montoya, calls the meeting to order at 11:00am.

Roll Call

Senators present: Drs. Haley Armstrong, Xinhua Bai (PHYS), Karen Braman (MCS), Andrea Brickey (MEM), William Cross (METE), Randy Hoover (ECE), Frank Matejcek (IE), Todd Menkaus (CBE), Thomas Montoya (Chair), Darrin Pagnac (GEOL, GEOE), Kayla Pritchard (SS), Marc Robinson (CEE), Albert Romkes (ME, Secretary), and Mr. Michael Vander Heyden (PE).

Also attending: Drs. Jeffrey McGough, Lance Roberts & Travis Kowalski, Registrar Philip Hunt, and Interim Department Head Lori Coble (CABS)

Approval of Agenda

The agenda is approved by voice vote.

Approval of November 8 Minutes

Postponed till next meeting.

Report from the Chair

- The All-Faculty Meeting was held on Monday November 19, 2018 in CB 204E from 5-6pm. President Rankin & Provost Kouris attended. Topics of discussion were the University Strategic Plan and the suggestion by Dr. Kellar (see Nov. 8 minutes) for a tuition break for children of faculty and staff (a 50% reduction was mentioned). The Provost and President were supportive, but further details will have to be worked out and any final proposal will have to be approved by the SD BoR.

Old Business

- A. University Strategic Plan: President Rankin sent a campus wide e-mail requesting feedback through an included survey link (responses are due by 12-10-2018).
- B. Tuition reduction for children of faculty and staff: in progress.
- C. Time limits for undergraduate degree completion: proposal is currently in progress, as a request has been submitted to put the Faculty Senate approved version on the agenda of the upcoming meeting of the Executive Council.

New Business

- A. Drs. Philip Hunt, Lance Roberts, Lori Coble, and Travis Kowalski: proposal for a revision of the policy for "Common Hour Exams." It is proposed to hold common hour exams 4-5pm during the normal academic day session on Mondays and Wednesdays. The motivation for the proposed change in policy stems from student feedback. Supposedly, students struggled with the current schedule of common hour exams (6-7:30pm), since it's held after a whole day of classes. Some concerns are raised by senators regarding the proposed policy revision: 1) the proposal implies that the time allocation for the common hour exam will be reduced from the current 1.5hr to 1hr; 2) how would it be applied to classes held on Tuesday and Thursday which are 1hr 15mins long; and 3) how would this affect ADA students. Assurances are made that in the final

version of the proposed policy, the Tuesday and Thursday courses will be accommodated (e.g. by holding common hour exams for those courses 6:30-7:50am on Thursdays), and ADA students will be able to take the common hour exam at the testing center with time allocations as outlined in their ADA document/agreement. with SDSMT. The 30 minutes reduction in allocated time is unfortunate, but hard to avoid if one wants to move the common hour exam into the normal academic day.

- B. University Curriculum Committee (UCC): motion to approve a list of remaining courses that UCC had not been able to review during its November 1 meeting, but were approved during its meeting earlier this morning (see http://sdmines.sdsmt.edu/cgi-bin/global/a_bus_card.cgi?SiteID=424038 for the full list of courses approved by UCC on November 1 and December 5). Approved by voice vote.
- C. Thomas Montoya, Faculty Senate Chair: inquiries were made by faculty whether SDSMT has an official “Buyout” policy: The Chair will inquire at the next Executive Council meeting.

Other Business: None.

Adjourn

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 11:45am.