

Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, January 17, 2019
(McKeel Room)

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Senators present: Drs. Haley Armstrong (HUM), Xinhua Bai (PHYS), Karen Braman (MCS), William Cross (METE), Dan Heglund (CABS, for Gilley), Randy Hoover (ECE), Frank Matejcik (IE), Kelli McCormick (MEM), Todd Menkhaus (CBE), Thomas Montoya (Chair), Darrin Pagnac (GEOL, GEOE), Kayla Pritchard (SS), Marc Robinson (CEE), Albert Romkes (ME, Secretary), and Michael Vander Heyden (PE).

Also in attendance: Samantha Smith (Assistant Director, Admissions).

Approval of Agenda

The agenda is approved by voice vote.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the November 8, 2018, and December 5, 2018 meetings are approved by voice vote after minor amendments.

Report from the Chair

- Dr. Kelli McCormick will replace Dr. Andrea Brickey and serve as the MEM senator/representative for Spring 2019.
- Spring 2019 Convocation:
 - The Campus Strategic Plan was rolled-out
 - President Rankin is requesting volunteers to serve on the VP for Finance search committee.
- Consideration of item scheduled under *New Business*: proposal for a revision of the transfer credit evaluation policy by Samantha Smith (Admissions) and a small workgroup of SDSMT faculty, who serve as transfer credit evaluators of their respective departments (i.e., Pritchard, Riley, Romkes, and West). The proposed policy revisions address changes to the appeals process, implementation of articulation agreements, and guidelines as to which individuals conduct transfer credits evaluations. Minor discussion followed and addressed questions such as: can students appeal any transfer credit decisions (answer: yes), do articulation agreements have to be reviewed by the Faculty Senate (answer: currently not), and are study abroad

transfers subject to this policy (answer: no). Motion made to approve the proposal, seconded, and approved by voice vote.

Old Business

- A. Tuition reduction for children of faculty and staff: nothing to report as of now.
- B. 'Buyout' policy at SDSM&T: nothing to report as of now.

New Business

- A. Samantha Smith, Assistant Director of Admissions: proposal for a revision of the SDSMT transfer credit evaluation policy: item was discussed as part of the *Report from the Chair* (see preceding notes under that agenda item).
- B. Revision of 2018-2019 committee assignments: Dr. Baran relieved from Spring 2019 committee service, Dr. Brickey will continue to chair of *Research and Scholarly Affairs* while Dr. McCormick attends regular meetings, Mr. Vander Heyden added to *University Relations* committees.
- C. Dr. Montoya: university workload policy concerns: EE department head recently passed along that the Provost's Office does not consider a faculty member to be teaching a new course, with the associated 150% workload credit, if it is a course in existence at SDSM&T. Upon discussion, the consensus is that this is not acceptable. Further discussion focused on the apparent contradiction that faculty are required to report actual effort but not allowed to report figures exceeding a 100% effort. Hence, the document is meaningless and essentially a misrepresentation of facts. It was questioned whether there could be any legal issues. At the conclusion of the discussion, the consensus was that the Faculty Senate needs to approach the Administration (i.e., the Provost), but should also investigate this matter further and consult with faculty across the school as to their experiences and opinions. Dr. Montoya will inquire with other regental institutions.

Other Business:

- Dr. Pritchard: faculty were informed that childcare for faculty and staff is no longer offered, which seems to go against one of the goals of the new University Strategic Plan of enhancing campus culture. Dr. Montoya agrees to bring this topic at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Adjourn

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 11:47am.