

Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, March 21, 2019
(Classroom Building, Room 205E)

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Senators present: Drs. Laura Kremmel (HUM, substituting for Dr. Armstrong), Xinhua Bai (PHYS), Bharat Jasthi (METE, substituting for Dr. Cross), Randy Hoover (ECE), Frank Matejcek (IE), Kelli McCormick (MEM), 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: Jesse Herrera (Director, Multicultural Affairs) and Rachel Mannhalter (HR & Learning Development).

Approval of Agenda

Motion made to approve the agenda, received a second, and passed by voice vote.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made to approve the minutes of the January 17 and February 14, 2019, meetings, received a second, and passed by voice vote.

Report from the Chair

- Consideration of agenda item scheduled under *New Business*: introduction of the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) by Jesse Herrera, Director of Multicultural Affairs, Rachel Mannhalter, Human Resources, and Senator Pagnac. This spring semester, the IDI will be conducted among employees of SDSMT and faculty are encouraged to participate. The time window to submit a response is Monday, March 18, through Friday, March 29. Employee responses are confidential. Only upon specific written requests by the employee will his/her identity be provided to other parties. The intent of the survey is to build on the outcome of the 2014 survey and explore where SDSMT should continue to focus its efforts in intercultural development. The Academic Leadership Council is in support of the survey and it is anticipated that the Student Senate will follow, upon its consideration of the initiative at its next meeting.
- University Cabinet meeting, March 3, 2019:
 - the proposed policies of *Appeals of Undergraduate Transfer Credit Decisions*, *Transfer of Undergraduate Academic Credit from Other Institutions*, and *Articulation of Transfer Credits from Other Institutions* (approved by the Faculty Senate during its January 17, 2019, meeting) were all approved.

- status of HB1087 and SB122, discussed at the February 14 meeting of the Faculty Senate: the SD legislature amended HB1087 by essentially inserting the current BoR policy and subsequently passed the bill. It was signed into law by the Governor on March 20, 2019. The proposed gun bill SB122 did not pass the SD State Senate.
- All-Faculty Meeting: the next meeting will be held 4-5pm Tuesday, March 26, 2019, in CBEC 2228. Please inform the Chair of any topics faculty would like to discuss at that meeting.
- Fall 2019 commencement: President Rankin announced that the fall commencement has been moved to December 14.
- Former President Heather Wilson: Dr. Wilson is currently being considered for the open position of President of the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). Faculty of UTEP contacted the Faculty Senate Chair with questions whether Dr. Wilson had been politically active, while being president of SDSMT. To the best of his knowledge, she had not.

Old Business

- A. Tuition reduction for children of faculty and staff: Provost Kouris informed the Chair on March 14, 2019, that the request was dead on arrival with the state legislature.
- B. ‘Buyout’ policy at SDSM&T: the school indeed has a buyout policy for faculty and it is stipulated in the current version (i.e., of December 29, 2016) of COHE and it is stated under Appendix H as follows: *“To be released from an obligation of 3 equivalent workload units for one semester, a faculty member would have to generate from external grants, at a minimum, the larger of 10% of their academic year salary or the actual to hire a qualified replacement instructor, with the actual amount to be negotiated by the Department Head and approved by the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.”*
- C. Simplified workload document (as provided by Dr. Kelli McCormick at the All Faculty Meeting held on January 29, 2019): the consensus was to not take any further steps at this point in time, since it is up to the departments to draft/approve their own workload model and the Provost Office has not indicated any urgency in regard to the workload model.

New Business

- A. University Curriculum Committee (UCC): motion to consider and approve courses and curricular changes approved at its meeting on February 28, 2019 (see http://sdmines.sdsmt.edu/cgi-bin/global/a_bus_card.cgi?SiteID=424051). Motion passed by voice call.
- B. Chair: request to award honorary doctorate degrees in public service to Dana Dykhouse (who will be the spring 2019 commencement speaker) and Hani Shafai. Both degrees will be awarded during the spring 2019 commencement ceremony. Motion made, received a second, and passed by voice vote.
- C. Jesse Herrera, Director of Multicultural Affairs, Rachel Mannhalter, Human Resources, and Senator Pagnac: introduction of the IDI [*item discussed at the beginning of the meeting under Reports from the Chair*].

- D. University Promotion and Tenure (P&T) Committee: proposal for updates/amendments to the *Guidelines to Candidate Dossier Preparation for P&T* and the *Guidelines to Dossier Preparation for Advancement in Rank Within the Lecturer Series*. Since the proposal was submitted to the Chair just a few days before this meeting, it is decided to table the consideration of this item to the next Faculty Senate Meeting; allowing senators time to review the proposed changes. Senators can also forward the proposal to the faculty in their respective department, collect feedback, and forward this to the Chair.

Other Business:

- Dr. Kelli McCormick: would like to inquire on existing departmental policies across the school regarding student travel. MEM would like to develop a policy for its students who travel off campus to attend school/professional society related events. Existing policies at other departments would help guide drafting a policy. In response, several senators provided examples of their department's policy (PHYS, ME, Athletics). Another source of information could be CAMP's policies regarding student travel. This organization has extensive experience due to all the national competitions its teams participate in.
- Dr. Randy Hoover: would it be possible to allow access to the Health Center to spouses and/or family of faculty and staff, as is custom at other institutions across the nation? Michael Vander Heyden responds that currently spouses or family of faculty and staff are not allowed to use the facilities in the Health Center. However, the athletics department has actively been advocating to members of the Student Senate to change this policy and also been exploring how to draft and put forward a proposal that would have a high likelihood of passing the Student Senate.

Adjourn

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 11:40am.