

## **Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting**

May 10, 2018

Bump Conference Room

### **I. Call to order**

Chair Rod Rice called the meeting to order at 11:03 AM.

### **II. Roll call**

Senators present: Drs. Haley Armstrong (HUM), Xinhua Bai (PHYS), Karen Braman (MCS), Andrea Brickey (MEM), William Cross (METE), Patrick Gilcrease (CBE), David Gilley (CABS), Coach Jason Henry, Randy Hoover (ECE), Frank Matejcik and Adam Piper (IEEM), Darrin Pagnac (GEOL/GEOE), Marc Robinson (CEE), Albert Romkes (ME), and Frank Van Nuys (SS)

Dr. Tom Montoya (ECE) was also present at this meeting.

### **III. Approval of agenda**

The agenda was approved by voice vote.

### **IV. Approval of minutes**

The minutes of the April 12, 2018 meeting of the Faculty Senate and the March All-Faculty meeting were approved by voice vote.

### **V. Report from the Chair**

Dr. Rice thanked the Senators for their service during the Academic year, and recounted the highlights of this Senate year, and discussed the upcoming issues on the SDSM&T agenda – In particular Strategic planning and the Board of Regents General Education curriculum

### **VI. Committee reports**

Committee reports were covered in old and new business.

### **VII. Old Business**

#### **A. GenEd Goal 1 & 2 changes**

The Regent's General Education Core requirements are still being worked on as part of an ongoing process. In particular, a major issue is transferability of credits between Regental institutions as the requirements are different among the Regental institutions. Of interest at the time of the Senate meeting related to SD Mines is the requirement of Technical Communications within the Engineering programs. The intention is to not allow the individual programs to require

the two Technical Communications courses in the 30 hours of the curriculum prescribed in the Board of Regents General Education curriculum. If programs want to require these courses this must be done within the 100 hours of courses under the control of the program. There was discussion of the Institutional Graduation Requirements, although SDSM&T never had any of these. Other possible options brought were to combine ENGL 279 and 289 into one 4-credit class or set up a Technical Communications certificate to encourage students to take the Tech Comm courses. Other questions that came up concerned other portions of the General Education curriculum in which SD Mines programs require specific courses, such as the Calculus courses in Mathematics.

#### B. Fleet vehicle cleaning

The state requires that fleet vehicles be cleaned inside and out and SD Mines Facilities requests that this cleaning be done prior to return. This inevitably ends up falling on the faculty to get the cleaning done, which in some cases can take several hours. This is particularly true for the Mineral Industry disciplines (GEOL/GEOE, MEM, MET) as these often have field trips in which students must walk around in dirt and mud, leading to vehicles needing considerable cleaning. This requirement of cleaning has led to some faculty not doing field trips which may be detrimental to student learning. In general, the affected faculty understand the need for cleaning, but are unsure why they must do this rather than facilities. This additional work, not directed at typical faculty responsibilities can be demoralizing for the faculty members. While it seems like there are some easy solutions that are being ignored, the Senate felt that an ad hoc committee composed of members from the affected departments might be of use.

#### C. Plus/minus grading

This is an ongoing issue at the Board of Regents level. Currently, the Academic Leadership Council is working on the SD Mines response, but this has yet to be resolved. In addition, Dr. Rice updated the new Senate members on the history of the issue.

#### D. Time limits for undergraduate degree completion

Generally, the proposed policy was thought to adequately capture the de facto policy currently in use, but that the proposed initial time of one year of not being enrolled was too short and that three or five years was more appropriate.

### **VIII. New Business**

#### A. Proposed P&T dossier preparation edits

Questions that arose related to the proposed P&T dossier included

How will this be used?

When is this to be implemented?

Why?

*Answer: New members surprised it wasn't being used.*

Why h-index? Can other similar measures be used?

h-index, etc. issues such as small disciplines with non-indexed journals or journals with lower inherent h-indices.

What about large collaborations and deciding what part is the applicants?

*Answer: Committee already deals with this.*

Maybe this should be in an appendix rather than as a separate section.

There was a concern about the weight given to this, and maybe this should be addressed with additional language in 6a.

#### B. Installation of new faculty chair and senators

Dr. Tom Montoya was installed as the new Faculty Senate Chair and all Senators for the 2018-2019 Academic year were installed in office,

#### **IX. Other**

The proposed Biomedical Engineering program will be brought forth in the fall, as the changes requested by the Board of Regents could not be made in time to fulfill the time submission requirements of the Curriculum Committee

#### **X. Adjournment**

The Senate adjourned at 12:15 PM.