

Ohio University Faculty Senate
Meeting Minutes Monday, September 13, 2021
Live and Virtual Meeting Via MS Teams

7:10 – 9:00 p.m.

- I President Hugh Sherman and Executive Vice-President & Provost Elizabeth Sayrs
- II Roll Call and Approval of the May 3, 2021
- III Chair's Report – Robin Muhammad
 - a. Updates & Announcements
 - b. Upcoming Senate Meeting: October 4, 2021 at 7:00 p.m in Irvine 194 and with Teams access
- IV Executive Committee
 - Resolution to Change the Faculty Handbook to Allow Virtual Meetings for Faculty Senate--First Reading
- V Promotion & Tenure Committee – Jackie Wolf
- VI Educational Policy & Student Affairs Committee – Nukhet Sandal
- VII Professional Relations – Char Miller
- VIII Finance & Facilities – Doug Clowe
- IX New Business
- X Adjournment

In attendance:

Andzulis, Bates, , Brown, Casebolt, Challenger Chen, Cioli, Clowe, Crawford, Dowell, Duvert, Dyer, Esworth, Gordon, Haile, Hallman-Thrasher, Hartman, Hendrickson, Hess, Holcomb, Hurley, Johnson L., Johnson M., Karney, Kuruppallil, Llamas, Marchenkov, Marinski, Matlack , McDiarmid, Miller, Muhammad, Murray, O'Keefe, Owens, Phillips, Pritchard, Raney, Reader, Ridpath, Rosado Feger, Sandal, Sarver, Steele, Webb, White A., Wilson, Wolf, Wyatt, You, Young

Meeting called to order at 7:10

President Hugh Sherman:

Just a few items, then questions:

1. We had an increase of 500 students in the freshman class at Athens campus., Thanks to Enrollment, Communications, Faculty, and Deans. This was a very difficult year for recruiting and bringing students to campus. Also, an increase in out-of-state students and higher GPA and diversity. Very high yield in HTC and other selective programs. This increases optimism for future enrollments.
2. Five priorities (from State of the University Address):
 - Student Experience
 - Enrollment, recruitment of students
 - Academic Quality: recruit/retain faculty and staff
 - Define our mission, maximize our regional impact
 - Develop a long-term financially stable situation (requires 3% growth in revenues)
3. The results of the Deloitte study, with the major takeaway about the challenges in administrative and financial processes. Currently deciding on next steps, likely first target will be Procurement.
4. State legislature passed the Anti-Hazing Law (Collin's law). The state is very serious about ending hazing. Immediate impact: all faculty to be trained on the law and our responsibilities.

Provost Sayers:

Academic Updates:

- Thank you to faculty for your support in implementation of COVID protocols.
- Faculty exemptions for online teaching will be reviewed (without requiring application). If requesting an ADA accommodation, please go through the Accessibility Services office. Review results should be out this week/
- Two summer groups looking at Horizontals and Academic Data.
- Program Innovation Accelerator launched, 21 proposals, submissions still accepted on rolling basis.
- International Think Tank recommended a Curriculum Globalization Committee, call for those interested in serving should go out this week.
- Dr. Katie Hartman appointed Assoc Provost for Faculty Development. Dr. Sarah Poggione appointed Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education.
- Provost Fellows will still be working this year.
- President Sherman visiting colleges in Fall.
- Bobcats Helping Bobcats faculty appreciation event on Sept. 22 3-5 pm in the 1804 Room in Baker Center. Focus on Cat's Cupboard food pantry.
- Re-start President and Provost coffee hours every month.

QUESTIONS:

Senator Matlack: "What does rationalize regional campus mean?"

President Sherman: We have the issue on all campuses that we have extra buildings. There's an opportunity to reduce our physical footprint. At regional, we can look for partnerships with community organizations that have a need for lower-cost space. There are other properties that do not contribute to educational mission (houses, horse farm), either find a use that matches our mission or sell these properties.

Senator? Can you address the challenges to faculty retention and recruitment, when class sizes are increasing and faculty is facing increasing pressures on their time?

President Sherman: We need to be able to generate the revenues that we need to compensate the faculty in the manner that they should be. Faculty is critical in teaching, we need to develop the resources to continue to develop our faculty and new approaches to teaching and learning.

Roll Call and Approval of Minutes

?/Andzulis Minutes from May 3, 2021 meeting approved.

Chair's Report:

- Welcome all to our first meeting, and a hybrid format, both online and in person. We will be using this format for this semester and perhaps the academic year.
- Summer highlights:
 - Work on Committees: Professional Ethics Committees, Standing committees, Senate committees
 - Changes and improvements to Faculty Senate website.
- Types of Resolutions:
 - Resolution of Handbook policy: requires Provost signature
 - Resolution of non-handbook policy: requires Provost signature
 - Resolution of position (Sense of the Senate): does not require Provost signature
- May 3 resolutions
 - Resolution to establish a committee to address RHE scheduling/course offerings. Passed, but not signed by the Provost. Based on commentary and interest from both faculty and the Provost, this resolution will be revised and possibly resubmitted.
 - SOS Resolution to seek parity in budgetary cuts to expenses of academic and administrative units. Provost signaled support for budget decisions aligning with the priorities of the university, and the importance of the academic mission.
- Nukhet Sandal attended Ohio Faculty Council meeting on behalf of Ohio University. Current legislation regarding free speech and the teaching of difficult topics. OFC coordinating a response due to the potential impact on faculty.
- Awards: nominations sought for 2021 Presidential Teaching Award and Provost Award for Excellence in Teaching (due Oct 1) as well as the MAC Award for Excellence in Student Success (due Nov 5).
- Next Senate meeting Oct 4.

Senator Wyatt; Why did the Provost not sign the resolution?

Chair Muhammad: she felt there were some elements in the resolution that were not needed.

Senator Karney: regarding the resolutions and the processes, what would be the normal order for approval?

Chair Muhammad: resolutions should be discussed methodically and carefully, with questions and discussion. First reading, then review, and brought back for a second reading at a subsequent meeting. What has complicated this process is the suspension of rules and proceeding to second reading/vote. This should happen by exception, but it did happen more frequently last year.

Executive Committee:

Resolution to Change the Faculty Handbook to Allow Virtual Meetings for Faculty Senate--First Reading

- Pandemic required the use of online voting, although that language did not exist in the Handbook.
- This resolution addresses meeting formats to include the use of remote meetings and voting.
- RHE faculty do not receive travel compensation to travel to Athens for meetings.
- Aims: establish legitimacy of online and to acknowledge that in-person meeting represents additional burden on RHE faculty.
- Senator Andzulis question: do we need to set a time window for votes such that someone cannot log in at a later time and register a vote?
 - Chair Muhammad: we can include language to that effect, that voting takes place during a meeting.
- Senator Karney: Are we allowing voice votes, chat votes? What is the voting format? Do we require a voice vote, or can we use chat?
 - Chair Muhammad: we have always had different voting methods, sometimes by voice, sometimes by roll call. It has depended on the situation.
 - Vice Chair Bates: this is covered under Sturgess Rules.
- Senator Reader: I support this strongly, as I understand the challenge of driving to the Athens campus. Please have the word "virtual" replaced by "online" because this is real, not simulated.
- Senator Kurupallil: What if someone is joining by phone, would they be "online"?
 - Senator Reader: if you connect via a computer network, you are "online"
- Senator: Do we want to put brand/corporate names referring to specific technology?
 - Chair Muhammad: Good point, we should omit that.
- This resolution will be back for Second Reading on Oct 4.

P&T: Senator Wolf

- Purpose of the committee: hear appeals to P&T denial decisions, address all matters relating to promotion and tenure.
- Summary for the summer:
 - Subcommittee of Full professors met on Appeal, will go to a hearing.
- On the agenda for the year:
 - OneOHIO: now that departments in Athens evaluate for promotion and tenure, we want to consider the composition of P&T committees, and make sure regional faculty are included.

- What happens upon a successful appeal? Streamline this process.

EPSA: Senator Sandall

- Purpose of the committee: consider all issues related to curriculum and educational policies, primary link between UCC and Faculty Senate.
- On the agenda for this year:
 - RHE Scheduling

PRC: Senator Miller

- Purpose of the committee: handle all grievances not related to P&T, consider all policies that have to do with faculty (except any relating to P&T).
- On the agenda for this year:
 - Handbook language around Title IX process requirements
 - Handbook language clarification around non-renewal of instructional faculty contracts
 - Handbook language in Section 2F, registration for graduate degrees.

F&F: Senator Clowe

- Purpose of the committee: to address issues of budget and facilities across all campuses.
- On the agenda for this year:
 - Capital Improvement Project (Athens Campus)
 - Space reduction initiative in academic units
 - Seek interview with CFO finalists
 - Summer: issues with accepting software EULA's. This policy has been written into law in the state. Starting Oct 1, EULA cannot be accepted.
 - Current budget projections:
 - Last year had extra influx of money due to COVID funds
 - Administration hoping savings will continue.
 - Still projecting \$30-40M shortfall over the next 5 years. The hope is to offset with revenue.
 - Presented preview of major renovations.
 - Question: any mention of Porter Hall?
 - Answer: no
 - Presented map of buildings and age.
 - Search "Ohio University 6 Year Capital Improvement Plan" for details.

Board of Trustees meeting in October.

Thank you to Tyler and Zach for their technical support.

New Business:

Resolution by Senator John O'Keefe regarding leadership searches.

Senator O'Keefe:

- We have had a lot of transitions at the leadership level, this resolution is geared to ensuring greater faculty voice in these processes.
- First paragraph links to the policy.
- "Interim" appointments do not technically violate the policy but does violate the spirit of the policy,
- Assure minimum level of faculty representation on search committees.
- First Be It Resolved: Assures Title IX and diversity, equity and inclusion is part of the process.
- Second Be It Resolved: avoid conflicts of interest, particularly at the very senior positions
- Third Be It Resolved: which positions this resolution would apply to
- Fourth Be It Resolved: include Athletics in this resolution
- Presenting this now and seeking action because important searches will start soon: President and VP Finance

Senator Clowe:

- Policy referred was issued in 1979, needs to be revised
- Provided several points of feedback to clarify intent and desired outcome.

Senator Andzulis:

- I would like to have time to see and read it before I vote on this resolution. I would also like to know how "electing 40%" of the committee would work.
 - Senator O'Keefe: Some of the language is taken from the policy and we are open to suggestions that clarify the purpose.

Senator Rosado Feger:

- There is a process in place and a group of faculty and staff trained to be Diversity Advocates on search and hiring committees. Check to see how this process interacts with this proposed policy.

Please send comments and questions to Senator O'Keefe, okeefe@ohio.edu.

Senator Karney:

- Are committee members, voting members or representatives?
- Answer: voting. But we need to clarify that language.

Move to adjourn: Sandal/White

Adjourned, 8:40 pm