

Guests:

Dr. LaVette Burnette, Chair of Academic Affairs Committee, Associate Professor of Communication

Dr. Kevin Cantwell, Associate Provost & Dean of Graduate Studies

Dr. Lorraine Dubuisson, Chair of the Executive Committee, Associate Professor of English

Dr. Sheree Keith, Department Chair of Media, Culture, and the Arts

Dr. Alex Koochang, Dean, School of Computing

Dr. Steve Morse, Dean, School of Business

Mr. Chris Tsavatewa, Director of Effectiveness & Assistant Professor of Health Administration

Dr. Mary Wearn, Dean, School of Arts & Letters

Dr. Tara Underwood, Dean, School of Health and Natural Sciences

Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

The minutes for our October 2, 2020 meeting were approved electronically.

Dr. Kilburn called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Dr. Kilburn asked for a motion to approve the agenda with one additional item. Our representative to the USG Faculty Council, Dr. Pattillo, should be added as item six. Dr. Svonavec will be item seven. Mr. Swenson made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Agnew seconded. The motion was approved.

Report from President Blake

Dr. Blake encouraged faculty to share with their colleagues and students that registration for the spring semester is open. We have a marginal lead over last year's registrations. A strong enrollment for the spring semester will help alleviate the pressure of a strained budget. Our efforts to increase enrollment are rewarded. We received \$500,000 for our enrollment growth last year. We also received \$3 million in intervention funding.

We are at a critical point for the FY22 budget. Our budget proposal will be submitted to the USG by November 18. We defend it in the winter,

Report from Interim Provost Matthews

The USG has requested our guidelines for identifying “exceptional performance” in teaching. Our response will be drafted by the Senate’s Diversity Committee and Faculty Affairs Committee. Our awards, including the Excellence in Teaching Award, have already been approved by the USG. They are not changing our awards, just asking for clarification on how exceptional performance in teaching is identified.

Dr. Don Brown is serving as our representative on the USG working group to evaluate existing guidelines and make recommendations for changing post-tenure review policies and practices.

Dr. Matthews reminded faculty to be diligent with upcoming date deadlines, like recording grades. She also mentioned that Dec. 18 is the deadline if students received an extension because of COVID-19.

Report from the Academic Affairs Committee

Dr. Burnette presented the new Master of Arts in Public Relations program and the new courses to support it that were approved by the Academic Affairs Committee. Drs. Wearn and Keith joined the meeting to answer questions about the new program. Dr. Pattillo moved to discuss the new program. Dr. Taylor seconded his motion. The motion passed.

Dr. Matson asked about an internship in the new program. Dr. Burnette noted that MCOM 6020 is the program’s practicum course. The program does not have an internship, but the

Numerous legislators have been questioning various student fees because so many classes are being taught as hybrid or online. These questions prompted the Board of Regents resolution about maximizing safe in-person instruction.

The USG is behind in the salary schedule after the economic downturn of 2008. The salary schedule is unlikely to change any time soon. It was noted in the Faculty Council meeting that even a small 1% salary increase to state employees costs \$140 million.

Vice Chancellor Denley shared that the general education redesign is on hold until after there is some type of closure with COVID-19. He mentioned that the redesign of our general education would not remove the history or the constitution requirement. Also, the SAT & ACT have been waived through 2021.

Other items that were discussed were: the updated CDC guidelines, the post-tenure review working group, issues related to Title IX live hearings, and providing faculty emeritus more robust access to library services.

There was a discussion about the end of open enrollment. A question was raised about if the \$100 annual surcharge for spouses, that have access to other health insurance, was permanent. It is unknown if it is permanent. Also, Dr. Pattillo and Mr. Swenson reminded faculty that have health insurance with the USG that the system automatically defaults to “tobacco use” until it is changed. A question was raised about if the default could be changed to the opposite, non-tobacco use.

P & T Procedures for Lecturers

Dr. Svonavec asked about evaluating lecturers for promotion, specifically if lecturers should include service and/or be evaluated on service. Dr. Svonavec noticed inconsistencies in the three faculty handbooks (School of Arts & Letter, School of Computing, and the School of Health & Natural Sciences) she found online. Her question to the Senate was, should faculty handbooks and the criteria for evaluation be consistent across the schools.

Dr. Kilburn asked Drs. Cantwell and Matthews for their thoughts on the question. Dr. Cantwell noted that criteria for evaluating lectures should be consistent across the schools. He also noted that it is important to SACSCOC that our processes be fair, that we comply with our own processes, and that they be public. Dr. Matthews mentioned that typically lecturers are evaluated just on teaching, not on service. Dr. Matthews mentioned that the Faculty Affairs Committee is examining another level for lecturers, but that level would still focus on teaching. Dr. Hazlett-Knudsen asked if the Faculty Affairs Committee needs to review and standardize the evaluation process for the first level of lecturer across the schools. There was some discussion about if service was not being required, could or should it be included for promotion, ~~tenure,~~ and/or annual evaluations.

