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## Minutes of August 24, 2016, Faculty Senate Meeting

### Present:

Sarah Mergel (Senate President); Kent Harrelson (Secretary); Chris Wozny (Parliamentarian); Gail Ward; Tammy Byron; Baogang Guo; Barbara Jones (proxy for Lee Ann Cline); Nicholas Gewecke; Jean Johnson; Annabelle McKie-Voerste; Gene Powers; Sarah Min; Tami Tomasello; Richard Hambrock; Chuck Fink; John Gullledge; Gene Mesco; Cynthia Fisher; Margaret Venable (President of Dalton State College); Pat Chute (Vice President for Academic Affairs); Andy Meyer (Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs).

### Meeting called to order

Sarah Mergel called the meeting to order at 3:30. She welcomed everyone to the new session of the senate and introduced the members of the executive committee.

### Dr. Venable

Dr. Venable thanked the senators for their willingness to serve. She stated that she would like to attend senate meetings but that she is willing to not attend if the senate prefers it.

### Dr. Chute

Dr. Chute spoke about the importance of the faculty senate as it contributes to open dialogue and transparency.

### Dr. Meyer: moving senate meetings to activity hour

Dr. Meyer suggested the possibility of holding senate meetings during the new activity hour. Sarah Mergel said that doing this would require changing the bylaws. Chris Wozny said that he would research the bylaws for information on the subject and suggested that the senate could discuss the matter via email.

### Senate priorities

Sarah stated that the senate should set priorities for the year and suggested that faculty should have a say in the list of required syllabus statements. She also said that the senate could contribute to moving the college's strategic plan forward, beyond the activities of the current strategic plan monitoring committee. She then asked if anyone else had concerns they would like to address.

### Instructor withdrawal of students

Chris Wozny proposed that when a student missed more than 20% of class meetings, the instructor should be able to drop the student so that students would receive W's rather than F's. Gail Ward stated that the current policy was created for the benefit of veterans; Dr. Chute said that changing the policy could have repercussions; Dr. Meyer said that the early alert system would notify students that they needed to improve their attendance or drop the course.

### Technology for working from home

Tami Tomasello proposed the use of proprietary software to improve faculty members' ability to work from home.

### Status of tenure and promotion policy

Baogang Guo asked about the status of the tenure and promotion policy. Andy Meyer said that the committee is waiting for data and feedback from the individual schools; he also said that turnover in membership on the committee may create delays.

### Committee membership and ad hoc bylaws committee

Sarah Mergel proposed the creation of an ad hoc senate committee to review the senate bylaws, mentioning structural problems in committee membership and continuity.

Sarah asked all senators to fill out and return the committee membership form and encouraged senators to volunteer for committees.

### Next meeting and adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for 3:30 on September 14.

The meeting adjourned at 4:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Kent Harrelson, secretary