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Senate minutes February 8, 2024

Attendance: Please see the Appendix for the list of attendees.

Call to Order: Senate President Hussein Mohamed called the meeting to order at 3:30. Parliamentarian Tom Gonzalez stated that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes: Hussein asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September meeting. The motion was made by Tom Gonzalez and seconded by Annabelle McKie-Voerste. There was no discussion; the vote to approve the minutes was carried.

Executive Cabinet: Hussein invited Dr. Fuchko and the members of the President's Executive Cabinet to speak.

Dr. Fuchko: Dr. Fuchko said that the Institutional Strategic Plan Committee should have its membership complete by the fall; it will include members from the community as well as the college. He said that the Foundation Executive Committee has some new members and will likely meet two or three times per year. The Hispanic Advisory Board is active again after a hiatus.

Dr. Fuchko said that he wants to work toward more consistency between the college's various policies on matters such as evaluation. As the college's enrollment grows, he wants to establish a transparent process for hiring new faculty, with a clear set of priorities.

He said that he is establishing a committee, headed by David Lesicko, to evaluate changes to the campus, including trees, structures, etc. The committee will consider ecological impacts as well as the effect on the college's appearance. The group will include faculty, staff, and students. He also plans to establish a committee to study parking on campus.

He also plans to establish a group to coordinate international studies and the honors program.

Dr. Fuchko reminded everyone of the April 26 investiture date.

Dr. Hicks: Bruno expressed his gratitude for all the work the faculty is doing to cope with our current enrollment. He said that Dalton State is working with Georgia Highlands College and Georgia Northwestern Tech on an articulation agreement that will include health care, education, tech, STEM, and business.

Dr. Johnson: Jodi said that, unofficially, enrollment is up around 10% headcount for the spring semester. For next fall, completed applications and acceptances are up nearly 11% over last year. She mentioned the Georgia Match program, in which all students in Georgia receive a

notification of the schools they are eligible to attend; many students from other parts of the state are interested in Dalton State.

She reminded everyone of the upcoming change in Banner; it will change from Banner 8 to Banner 9 in April. She advised faculty to complete their advising and have students registered by the end of March.

David Lesicko: David said that our total tuition budget is up around 5% this year; the budget is largely based on full-time enrollment. He said that we'll have a clearer idea of the overall numbers as we go into summer. David invited comments and suggestions on how much information he should provide in these briefings; he wants to be transparent with where the college's money is going.

David invited volunteers for the two committees mentioned by Dr. Fuchko. He said that renovations in Lorberbaum are on schedule and should be completed by fall. After that, renovations in Roberts Library will begin. There is a new parking lot under construction between Health Professions and Brown.

Chris Wozny asked whether the new parking lot will be primarily for students in Mashburn Hall to free up some of the parking next to the garage. David said that it is not currently designated for Mashburn residents; it could be a matter for the new parking committee to discuss.

New Business

Spring Campus Assembly

Kent Harrelson made a motion regarding the end-of-year campus assembly:

"The College's annual awards ceremony shall be made a separate event from the campus assembly and faculty meeting; attendance at the awards ceremony is encouraged but not required."

The motion was seconded by Annabelle McKie-Voerste. Kent said that the campus assembly has gotten longer and longer over the years; faculty members have described the experience as exhausting and demoralizing.

Matt Higgs asked whether the motion was for a recommendation, since it would require action by other groups on campus. Kent said that the motion was for a Senate recommendation.

Annabelle McKie-Voerste said that in previous campus assemblies, faculty are exhausted by the time the faculty meeting begins; matters up for discussion don't receive the attention they deserve. Hussein called for a vote on the motion.

The motion carried; the Senate recommends that the annual awards ceremony be made a separate event from the campus assembly and faculty meeting; attendance at the awards ceremony should be encouraged but not required.

Academic Calendar

Hussein asked for a motion to approve the 2024-2025 academic calendar, which had been previously distributed. Jodi Johnson said that she'd be happy to answer any questions about the calendar. Based on feedback from students, the calendar includes a reading day at the end of the spring and fall semesters.

Tom Gonzalez moved to approve the calendar; Kent Harrelson seconded.

There was discussion about whether to include reading days for the summer semester; Jodi said the timeline didn't make it practical without reducing the break between summer and fall terms. Hussein asked for a vote on the calendar

The motion to approve the 2024-2025 academic calendar carried.

Revisions to Assessment Handbook

Jean Johnson stated that the Assessment Committee has been working on revising the assessment handbook; the proposed revisions had been previously distributed. Matt Higgs moved to approve the new assessment handbook; Sarah Min seconded. There being no discussion, Hussein asked for a vote.

The motion to approve the revised Assessment Handbook carried.

Committee Reports

Academic Programs: Nothing to report

Assessment: Nothing further to report.

Faculty Development: Lynda Ridley reported that the committee met on Jan. 31 to discuss Bold Talks. The event is set for March 1; eleven talks are scheduled, along with two round tables.

Faculty Evaluation: Jeff Stanley reported that the committee is working on updates to the evaluation manual to bring it in line with USG language. They expect to present their work to the Senate at its next meeting.

Faculty Resource: Calley Hornbuckle stated that the committee met to discuss means for more proactive communication on campus-wide instructional resources, and how to collaborate with administration to facilitate training in advance of implementation of new technology. In particular, the committee discussed polling software and portable desktops. Calley encouraged everyone to complete the polling software survey distributed by Susan Burran.

Calley said that the renovations to Roberts Library are still in the planning stages. Melissa Whitesell's team have proposed several new study rooms and furniture updates based on student feedback.

Hussein commented on the difficulties with the new wall monitors in Gignilliat; visibility is limited for students sitting on the sides of the classroom. He also mentioned a classroom in Gignilliat that has no whiteboard, only the smart screen. For teaching in some academic disciplines, a conventional whiteboard is superior to smartboards or projectors.

Faculty Welfare: Jennifer Randall reported that the committee had discussed faculty office hours. The committee will be meeting with the Deans to discuss alternatives to the current requirement that faculty hold office hours three days per week. The committee also discussed campus safety. They concluded that safety training for all college employees is an important component of safety planning. Anyone with suggestions on office hours or campus safety should contact Jennifer. The committee also discussed the CARE team and making access to its services more straightforward, with the online form more visible than it is now.

Strategic Planning Monitoring: Jackie Boals stated that the strategic plan is at the end of its current cycle, so the committee is in a holding pattern.

Tenure and Promotion: Matt Hipps reported that the committee has met and made its recommendations. The committee plans to meet at least once more to discuss improvements to the current process.

Announcements

Lori McCarty said that the college is looking for faculty and staff volunteers to participate in a new Employee Recognition Committee, which will be responsible for developing events to support recognition and engagement throughout the campus. Anyone interested should contact Lori.

Patrick Ryle said that the Security Exchange Commission will be visiting the campus on March 28. He said that it will be a learning opportunity for students; the SEC has only five members, and one of them will be here at Dalton State.

Adjournment and next meeting

The next senate meeting is scheduled for 3:30 on March 7.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Kent Harrelson, secretary

Appendix: Attendance

Senate Members	Guests
Ali Akdeniz	Manal Abdelsamie
Cynthia Bailey	Tammy Byron
Jacqueline Boals	Alicia Briganti
Susan Burran	Michael Cole
Cecile de Rocher	Jamie Connors
John Fuchko, Dalton State President	Mike D'itri
Carl Gabrini	Sylvia Driver
Thomas Gonzalez, Parliamentarian	Melissa Dykes
Kent Harrelson, Secretary	Daniel Gaillard
Timothy Hawkins	Sarita Gale
Bruno Hicks, Provost	Nicholas Gewecke
Matthew Hipps	Cameron Godfrey
Ryan Hoffpauir	Jami Hall
Calley Hornbuckle	Katherine Hyatt
Leah Howell	Jodi Johnson
Clint Kinhead	Jean Johnson
Jon Littlefield	Gina Kertulis-Tartar
Micah Manley	Christina Larmon
Annabelle McKie-Voerste	David Lesicko
Holly Miller	Nancy Mason
Sarah Min	Lori McCarty
Hussein Mohamed, Senate President	Brynn Munro
Jodie Pack	Tammy Rice
Jennifer Randall, President-Elect	Andrea Roberson
Lynda Ridley	Robin Roe
Patrick Ryle	John Shim
Jeff Stanley	Amanda Smith
Laura Tolliver, Webmaster	Wendy Sosebee
Lirong Yu	Ale Velazquez
	Lee Ann Williams
	Michael Woodard
	Christopher Wozny