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Minutes of April 13, 2017, Faculty Senate Meeting

Members Present:

Christy Walker, Garen Evans, Lorraine Gardiner, Ben Laughter, Tami Tomasello, Cecile de Rocher, Kent Harrelson, Gail Ward, Sarah Mergel, Christian Griggs, Cathy Hunsicker, Lee Ann Cline, Richard Hambrock, Vince Postell, Nicholas Gewecke, Norm DesRosiers, Jean Johnson, Susan Burran (proxy for Annabelle McKie-Voerste), Gene Mesco, Chris Wozny, John Gullede, Matt Hipps, Baogang Guo, Gene Powers, Margaret Venable, Pat Chute.

Absent: David Williams, Sarah Min, Jacquelyn Mesco, Anna Hart, Regina Ray, Jane Taylor, Chuck Fink, Robin Roe.

Meeting called to order

Senate President Sarah Mergel called the meeting to order at 3:15 and established that a quorum was present. She asked for approval of the minutes of the March 9 meeting; the minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

College Statutes

Sarah asked for discussion of the revised Dalton State Statutes, which had been previously circulated to the senate. Matt Hipps moved to approve the Statues; the motion was seconded by Chris Wozny. Baogang Guo pointed out that under Article III. E. 1. e., titled "Directors of Academic Units," the academic units are not listed or described. Matt Hipps stated that the goal had been to keep the statutes as flexible as possible, since any change has to be approved by the Board of Regents. Dr. Venable

also said that it is preferable to keep the statutes general, since academic units may be added, removed, or renamed over time. Dr. Chute pointed out that the academic units are listed in both the Policies and Procedures Manual and the college's organizational chart. Discussion followed.

Sarah asked for an amendment for a specific wording to go under the "Directors of Academic Units" heading. Matt Hipps proposed the following wording: "For a description of units that report to the Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs, refer to the current college organizational chart found on the Dalton State website." The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Kent Harrelson stated that in Article IV.D.3, the title "Professional Obligations" is vague and does not indicate the actual contents of the section. While faculty have many professional obligations, the section deals specifically with consequences of faculty participating in "disruptive activities," with a further mention of "political activities." Kent moved that the heading be changed to "Demonstrations and Political Protests." Discussion followed. Kent amended the proposed wording of the heading to "Professional Conduct." The motion was approved by voice vote.

The motion to approve the amended Dalton State Statutes was approved by unanimous voice vote.

[Amended and Restated Senate Bylaws](#)

Sarah asked for discussion of the amended and restated bylaws, the previous draft of which had been discussed and approved by the senate at the February meeting. Chris Wozny moved that the new draft, which had been previously circulated to the senate, be approved. The motion was seconded and discussed.

The motion to approve the newest draft of the Amended and Restated Senate Bylaws was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Faculty Evaluation Manual

Sarah asked for discussion of the proposed revision of the Faculty Evaluation Manual. Matt Hipps moved that they be approved by the senate; the motion was seconded. Bennie Laughter asked for a specific date that the new policies would take effect, and whether it was more appropriate to describe it as “amended and restated.” Sarah said that it was essentially the 2010 manual with additions; Bennie recommended calling the new version a “restatement.”

Dr. Chute said that in transitioning to a new system, faculty who are nearing promotion and/or tenure should have a choice of using the old or new system; faculty in their first few years of service to the college would start using the new system in the next academic year.

Matt Hipps asked whether it was appropriate for department chairs to already be using the proposed new system; Dr. Chute said that it was not. Discussion followed.

The motion to accept the proposed Faculty Evaluation Manual was approved by voice vote.

Course Evaluation Survey

Sarah asked for discussion of the new course evaluation instrument, which had been previously circulated to the senate. Matt Hipps moved to accept the document as presented; the motion was seconded and discussed. Cecile de Rocher pointed out that the first three questions focus on the student rather than the instructor; Baogang Guo asked whether those three questions would count as part of the instructor’s numerical average. Chris Wozny said that under the new evaluation manual, instructors would no longer receive a single overall score. Cathy Hunsicker asked whether the instrument would be more appropriately titled “Course and Instructor Evaluation Survey.”

The motion to accept the proposed Course Evaluation Survey was approved by unanimous voice vote.

[Adjournment and next meeting](#)

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm; the next Faculty Senate meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2017.

Respectfully submitted by Kent Harrelson, Secretary