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Dalton State Faculty Senate: Minutes of March 11, 2021, Meeting

Members Present:

Christian Griggs (Senate President), Ali Akdeniz, Karren Bennett, Samantha Blair, Alicia Briganti, Amy Burger, Omin Chandler, Cecile de Rocher, Carl Gabrini, Nick Gewecke, Tom Gonzalez, John Gulledge, Mike Hilgemann, Mike Joseph, Clint Kinkead, Victor Marshall, Nancy Mason, Annabelle McKie-Voerste, Travis McKie-Voerste, Hussein Mohamed, Jennifer Parker, Jennifer Randall, Tammy Rice, Deb Richardson, Patrick Ryle, Kristen Weiss Sanders, Sharlonne Smith, Jeff Stanley, Megan Vallowe, Kevin Yan, Margaret Venable (*ex officio*), Bruno Hicks (*ex officio*), Jodi Johnson (guest), Mary Nielsen (guest), Stacie Kilgore (guest), Melissa Whitesell (guest), Susan Burran (guest), Lisa Peden (guest), Barbara Tucker (guest), Tammy Byron (guest), Mariela Vazquez (guest), Cheryl Owens (guest), Sarita Gale (guest), Jon Jaudon (guest)

I. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

The meeting of the Senate was convened remotely because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Senate President Christian Griggs called the meeting to order at 3:15pm and established that a quorum was present. He asked for approval of the minutes of the February 11, 2021, meeting; Victor Marshall made the motion, and it was seconded by Samantha Blair. The motion was passed via electronic poll.

II. Reports from Officers

- a. Welcome and General Information – Christian Griggs reminded everyone that, in our last meeting, we had a motion about the format in which we teach classes in fall. Because the fall schedule has been released, most issues should be resolved by now. If anyone has questions about fall classes, they should work with their chair or dean to resolve them. If there are remaining issues, faculty can contact Christian, and he will try to assist in getting them worked out.

Christian mentioned that he has received a few questions about the budget and the \$1000 one-time bonus. The budget is still very tight, but the bonus is coming out of the second round of federal relief funds. Nick Henry is willing to come talk about the budget if we want that option.

Lastly, Christian reminded the Senate that each committee is expected to submit a final report at the April meeting to be included in the minutes, so be sure to get those submitted.

III: Reports from Committees

- a. Academic Conduct. No report for this meeting.
- b. Academic Programs. No report for this meeting.
- c. Assessment Committee. No report for this meeting.
- d. Faculty Development Committee. Kristen Weiss Sanders reported that BOLD talks were successful and close to 50 people participated. There were a total of 8 talks, and the links to the recordings were sent by Kylie Berry via email.
- e. Faculty Evaluation Committee. Omin Chandler reported that the committee met in Feb and most recently on March 8. They reviewed and discussed proposed updates to the faculty evaluation manual.
 - For the weighting of components section (Section 1.4.6), they revised the Activities Needed to Earn Excellent and Very Good charts by adding additional columns to account for more varied teaching loads, with specific criteria for the added headings.
 - They put in more specific language for Education and Health Professions

- They added activities charts for lecturers and senior lecturers to distinguish them from tenure-track and tenured faculty.
 - They reviewed proposed updates to the narrative and timetables in the promotion and tenure timeline (Section 3.1) and started to review the pre- and post-tenure review processes in Sections 3.3 and 3.4. They will continue reviewing policies and proposed changes in their next meeting.
- f. Faculty Resource Committee. Jennifer Randall stated that an email was sent out today with a faculty survey. The committee finished working on the survey and hopes to get the results by the end of the month and report back in the April Senate meeting and at the budget hearing meetings. They are hoping to get at least some of the resources that faculty reported as being beneficial.
 - g. Faculty Welfare Committee. No report for this meeting.
 - h. Strategic Planning Monitoring Committee. Victor Marshall reported that the committee met on March 1, and they reached out to Henry Codjoe to figure out how best to work with him. At the current time, the focus is on the SACS review process. They will be getting back with his office at the start of next semester.
 - i. Student Success Committee. No report for this meeting.
 - j. Tenure and Promotion Committee. No report for this meeting.
 - k. Ad-hoc committee on class size policy. Travis McKie-Voerste reported the committee met and continued their discussion about class size policy. They are seeking input from SGA because these policies would impact them quite heavily, and they will seek feedback from faculty as well. They will also follow up with the VPAA to get additional input on the final proposal. Another meeting is scheduled for after spring break.
 - l. Ad Hoc Committee on Carl Vinson Study Implementation. The committee met yesterday and generated a list of 5-6 questions/points of clarification that need to be addressed before they can move forward with recommendations. They are getting those points of clarification ready to forward to the appropriate people for answers.

IV. Old Business

- a. Syllabus Statements

- i. Diversity Statement
- ii. Supplemental Syllabus Statements hosted by Academic Affairs
 - 1. Retain Road Runner Pledge and Diversity Statement?

Christian Griggs spoke with Academic Affairs, and they are willing to host these statements if this is what we decide; the executive committee discussed leaving the above two statements on the physical syllabus, so we need to decide that. Carl Gabrini brought up that even if Academic Affairs hosted the statements, someone would need to be responsible for updating the statements. Christian is putting discussion on hold until we get more feedback on the Diversity statement from the Student Success Committee. At the next Senate meeting, be ready to make recommendations on what statements faculty should retain on physical syllabi versus which ones can be posted on the supplemental website.

V. New Business

- a. Academic Affairs Policies and Procedures Approval—Round 5

A motion to approve the latest round of statements was made by John Gulledge and seconded by Victor Marshall. Mary Nielsen mentioned that most comments pertained to being consistent with how we refer to Dalton State and other minor changes. There was discussion about changing the wording of the approved activities section, but because it is not Dr. Nielsen's original document, the wording will remain as is. The motion was approved by electronic poll.

- b. 2021-2022 Calendar—Jodi Johnson

We've heard by now that the University System wants Fall 2021 to look like Fall 2019, so Jodi took Fall 2019's schedule and is modifying it for Fall 2021. Jodi heard a lot of feedback from faculty and students about wanting fall break back, so it is included in the proposed schedule (October 4-5). The next issue related to fall is when to finish. We usually have Thanksgiving and then come back for two days of classes before final exams begin. We could start later in the fall, but that also means we finish later in the fall. For now, the proposed start date is Monday, August 9 and last day of classes is Tuesday, November 30 with finals occurring December 1-7. Graduation is scheduled for December 14. They are open to discussion about when to start and end, so if anyone thinks of anything after meeting, they can email Jodi.

For Spring 2022, the feedback that Jodi received from staff is that they preferred the later start that we had this spring, so she moved the spring start date to Monday, January 10. She also put an entire week of spring break back into the calendar (March 14-18). If anyone has any other comments, email or call Jodi to express them.

c. Update to Faculty Senate Bylaws

Christian Griggs highlighted a few of the changes to the Faculty Senate Bylaws: increased the commitment for some committees from 1 year to 2 years; added the webmaster position to the committee compositions where needed; moved the day of transition for the executive committee up to July 1 to make the transition a bit smoother.

V. Announcements

- a. Next Faculty Senate meeting on Thursday, April 8, 2021, at 3:15pm via Teams
- b. Other announcements. There were no other announcements.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:53pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Briganti, Senate Secretary