



Dalton State Faculty Senate

Minutes of Senate Meeting on November 10, 2022

Members Present: Ali Akdeniz, Omin Chandler, Susan Burran, Cecile de Rocher, Chuck Fink, Carl Gabrini, Tom Gonzalez (Parliamentarian), Kent Harrelson (Secretary), Tim Hawkins, Bruno Hicks (Provost), Matt Hipps, Calley Hornbuckle, Brian Hibbs, Liz Hubbs, Natalie Johnson, Michael Joseph, Clint Kinkead, Jon Littlefield, Nancy Mason, Annabelle McKie-Voerste, Holly Miller, Hussein Mohamed (Senate President), Jodie Pack, Jennifer Randall (President-Elect), Deb Richardson, Patrick Ryle, Jeff Stanley, Laura Tolliver (Webmaster), Margaret Venable (Dalton State President), Lirong Yu.

Guests present: Manal Abdelsamie, Karren Bennett, Killeen Berry, Tammy Byron, Forrest Blackbourn, Alicia Briganti, Jenny Crisp, Mike D'Itri, Joy Defoor, Sarita Gale, Nick Gewecke, Marilyn Helms, Brooklyn Herrera, Jean Johnson, Jodi Johnson, Natalie Johnson, Kathy Johnston, Sarah Mergel, Mike Hilgemann, Gina Kertulis-Tartar, Lori McCarty, Rosalva Moso, Lee Ann Nimmons, Lisa Peden, Andrea Roberson, John Shim, Amanda Smith, Marina Smitherman, Barbara Tucker, Caleb Watkins, Chelsea Young

Call to Order: Senate president Hussein Mohamed called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

Approval of minutes: Hussein asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October meeting. The motion was made and seconded. Kent Harrelson moved to amend the minutes to include Susan Burran among the attendees. The amended minutes were approved.

Committee Reports

Academic Conduct Committee: Leah Howell said that the committee had nothing to report.

Academic Programs Committee: Liz Hubbs stated that the committee had nothing to report.

Assessment Committee: Ali Akdeniz said that the committee is working to address recommendations from the SACS visit.

Faculty Development Committee: Nothing to report.

Faculty Evaluation Committee: Omin Chandler stated that the committee met on October 24 and made recommendations to amend the evaluation process, pending Senate approval.

Faculty Resource Committee: Jennifer Randall said the committee met on Nov. 8. The committee sent a survey to the faculty but had received only ten responses. She asked the

participants of the present meeting to respond to the survey. Hussein asked Jennifer to forward the email to everyone as a reminder.

Faculty Welfare Committee: Nothing to report.

Strategic Planning Monitoring Committee: Nothing to report.

Tenure and Promotion committee: Nothing to report.

New Business

Proposal to change class meeting times: Marina Smitherman proposed a change in class meeting times. She stated that as the campus has grown, students may need more than the current ten-minute break to get from one classroom to the next (from Brown to Peeples, for example). Many USG institutions have a fifteen-minute break between classes. Marina said that this change would benefit students and faculty; the 90-minute time slots would be easy to remember for new students. (Please see Appendix 1 for the proposed schedule and rationale.)

Hussein said that he has encountered problems with the current schedule, with not enough time for students to go between the classroom and the lab.

Hussein asked for a motion to discuss the proposal; the motion was made by Matt Hips and seconded.

Mike Joseph asked whether the proposed schedule could go into effect in fall 2023; the answer was that it could.

Matt Hips asked how classes longer than the standard 75 minutes would be affected; he pointed out that some schools do not follow the current schedule. Marina stated that the schools of Health Professions and Education have schedules that are affected by external requirements.

Jodie Pack asked whether there would be any impact on the length of classes; Marina said that there would not.

Discussion followed.

Hussein suggested that the next step would be to send the matter to a committee. Kent Harrelson moved that the Senate create an ad hoc committee with representation from each school to study the class schedule proposal; Matt Hips seconded the motion.

The motion to create an ad hoc committee to study the class schedule proposal carried.

Hussein asked that anyone willing to serve on the committee notify him by email.

Changes to the Faculty Evaluation Manual

Hussein said that the Faculty Evaluation Committee had sent proposed changes in the evaluation manual to the Board of Regents in July 2022. The board sent its feedback in October. The committee has made revisions based on the feedback, and Hussein reminded the Senate that some policies in the revised manual are required by the Board of Regents. He asked for a motion to discuss the revised faculty evaluation manual. The motion was made by Matt Higgs and seconded by Carl Gabrini.

Calley Hornbuckle asked if section 7 of the manual could be discussed and voted on separately from the other sections. Sarah Mergel said that the policies in section 7 are required by the Board of Regents. Matt Higgs said that the changes in faculty evaluation will happen regardless of our approval; they were decided at the USG level.

Calley moved to vote separately on section 7. The motion was seconded by Kent Harrelson and discussed.

Deb Richardson said that if the USG does not approve our proposed changes, they would overrule them. John Littlefield asked what is the point of voting if the outcome is already determined. Calley said that voting separately on section 7, which comes directly from the USG, would give faculty a voice.

After discussion, the Senate voted on the motion to vote separately on section 7.

The motion to vote separately on section 7 of the proposed Faculty Evaluation Manual was lost.

Hussein then asked for discussion on the main motion to approve the proposed changes to the faculty evaluation manual. There being no discussion, Hussein asked for a vote.

The motion to approve the recommended changes to the Faculty Evaluation Manual carried.

Announcements

SACS visit: On behalf of the Senate, Hussein thanked Nick Gewecke for his work in making the SACS visit successful. Nick said that the SACS committee was impressed with how well the QEP was recognized across campus. He said that program assessment needs some cleaning up; there will be less WEAVE assessment in the future. Nick stated that changes to program assessment will need to go through an approval program this year. He said that the committee's comments on academic freedom were a surprise; the exact issue is not entirely clear.

Honors Program: Jeff Stanley spoke next about the contract process for the Honors Program. Students may need honors hours in addition to the honors classes they take. To accomplish this, they can take a regular class with an additional honors component; this component is at the course instructor's discretion. Forrest Blackburn commended Jeff and his team; Hussein recommended that Jeff email the guidelines for the contract process to the faculty.

PACE: Brooklyn Herrera said that based on SACS recommendations, the college will be scaling back the number of instruments and measures associated with QEP assessment. The QEP implementation will otherwise remain the same.

Faculty evaluation study: Hussein said that WTW is on schedule for the faculty survey study it is conducting.

Next meeting: The next Senate meeting is scheduled for January 12.

Adjournment: There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:36 pm.

Appendix 1: Proposed class schedule

Proposal to amend the start and end times of class sessions at Dalton State

Rationale

Dalton State has grown as a campus since the start and end times of class session was instituted. Ten minutes between class sessions was sufficient when buildings were closer together or students took classes within the same building. Students now frequently must travel across campus in the ten-minute break including from Brown Hall to Peoples Hall. This leads to students either asking to leave or arriving at the next class late, missing critical information presented at the beginning of classes, or leaving to use the restroom having not had the opportunity thereby also missing critical information. Faculty are also in this position at times. We have grown enough to be considerate of this need to lower stress for our students by increasing the time they have in-between classes to get to the next one and be able to take a bio-break in between. In addition, having night classes begin before 5pm presents a problem for some students. This does not change the total number of class sessions per day or per week so it would be but potentially could be a huge support to faculty and students in transitioning between classes and buildings as well as being in neat 90-minute slots that will be straightforward for incoming freshman to adjust to and potentially positively impact ability to concentrate in addition. Other USG institutions have fifteen minutes in between classes.

Proposed Class Schedule

8:00-9:15am

9:30-10:45am

11:00-12:15pm

12:30-1:45pm

2:00-3:15pm

3:30-4:45pm

5:00-6:15pm

6:30-7:45pm

8:00-9:30pm