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Dalton State Faculty Senate: Minutes of April 12, 2018, Meeting

Members Present:

Donna Bledsoe, Susan Burran, Lee Ann Cline, Richard Collison (proxy for Jean Johnson), Jenny Crisp, Cecile de Rocher, Norm DesRosiers, Lorraine Gardiner, Nick Gewecke, Cheryl Grayson, Christian Griggs, John Gulledge (Proxy), Baogang Guo, Kent Harrelson, Bob Haverland, Matt Higgs, Cathy Hunsicker, Ben Laughter, Annabelle McKie-Voerste, Travis McKie-Voerste, Sarah Mergel (Senate President), Gene Mesco, Lydia Postell, Vince Postell, Gene Powers, Tami Tomasello, Gail Ward, David L. Williams, Chris Wozny, Pat Chute (Provost)

Guests present: Amy Burger, Nettie Henderson, Ale Velasquez

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

Senate president Sarah Mergel called the meeting to order at 3:17 and established that a quorum was present. Ben Laughter moved to approve the minutes of the March 8 faculty meeting; the motion was seconded and approved by a voice vote.

Human Resources: One USG Connect and Well-Being

Nettie Henderson of Human Resources stated that OneUSGConnect is now in use; it's a good idea for all college employees to log in and verify their personal information, including direct deposit. Nettie demonstrated the short instructional videos that are available for detailed

information. She reminded full-time faculty that they are no longer required to approve their time cards unless they have leave or sick time to enter.

Ale Velasquez stated that college employees will have from March 1 through September 30 to look into the University System's well-being program.

Dalton State College Statutes

Sarah Mergel discussed the latest updates to the revised college statutes. She said that there was a question about a reference to a specific section of the Board of Regents' Policy Manual (section 8.6); the information there may be moved to a different section of the Policy Manual, so our statutes would need to reflect that. Dr. Chute said that if necessary, the statutes can be amended later to reflect any changes in the policy manual. Chris Wozny suggested that the statutes refer to the policy manual without naming a specific section. Richard Collison moved to modify the wording from "Section 8.6" to "Section 8." The motion was seconded and discussed.

The motion to adopt the wording "Section 8" in the college statutes to allow for possible revisions of the USG policy manual was carried unanimously.

Sarah then moved on behalf of the Welfare Committee for approval of the amended statutes. Matt Hipps explained the changes that had been made since the previous draft; in particular, the sections describing the Faculty Senate, the Staff Council, and the SGA were modified so that all three sections shared similar wording. Ben Laughter asked for clarification of the timeline specified by the senate bylaws; he also asked about the formalities of the senate sending a motion to the full faculty. Sarah stated that we would be within the time limit to send the statutes to the full faculty; the statutes would go to Dr. Venable, who can modify them or send them to the faculty. After further discussion, Sarah called for a vote on the question.

The motion to approve the revised statutes was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Senate Officers

Sarah provided the senate with ballots listing the nominees for Secretary and Parliamentarian; she stated that there were currently no nominees for President-Elect. She said that the senate could hold off until the beginning of the fall semester to choose a president-elect. Chris Wozny said that the office requires a four-year commitment; Sarah said that in the future, the senate could amend its bylaws to modify the office's requirements. Matt Hipps stated that the ideal candidate would be tenured and would serve voluntarily rather than being pressured to serve.

Ben Laughter moved to elect by acclamation the two nominees, Jean Johnson for Secretary and Susan Burran for Parliamentarian. The motion was seconded and discussed.

The motion to elect by acclamation Jean Johnson as Senate Secretary and Susan Burran as Senate Parliamentarian beginning in Fall 2018 was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Christian Griggs stated that he was willing to serve as President-Elect. His nomination was seconded.

The motion to elect by acclamation Christian Griggs as Senate President-Elect beginning in Fall 2018 was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Committee Reports

Faculty Welfare

Matt Hipps reported that the Welfare Committee met several times to discuss issues including faculty workload and the current policy on overloads and eCore classes.

Sarah added that the faculty handbook is still a work in progress; the committee hopes to have a draft for next year's senate to work from.

Faculty Evaluation Committee

Matt said that for faculty evaluation standards, it is impossible to achieve complete equality between the different schools; the most we can achieve is equity rather than equality between the faculty of different schools. Matt said that the schools of Education, Health Professions, and Liberal Arts have agreed to a set of standards; STEM and the Wright School of Business are not in complete agreement on the standards. Matt asked that faculty contact him with any questions or concerns.

Ben Laughter asked whether the committee membership would change next year; Sarah said that it would.

Announcements

Ben Laughter asked whether it was necessary to elect Matt Hipps as incoming Senate President. Chris Wozny said that according to the bylaws, the president-elect automatically becomes president. Ben said that he looks forward to Matt's presidency and thanked Sarah Mergel for her service as president.

Sarah stated that she is Dalton State's representative on the USG Faculty Council; she has been nominated for the office of Chair-Elect of that organization.

Dr. Chute said that the campus assembly will be held in the quad unless it rains.

Dr. Chute discussed the faculty evaluations of their deans and chairs. She said that a comment she encountered more than once was "I don't know what a chair is supposed to do"; she said that she would work to clarify this and inform the faculty. Dr. Chute also said that some faculty included mean-spirited comments in their administrator evaluations; she said that faculty can be truthful and critical without being mean.

Dr. Chute said that Sequoia Hall is scheduled to close next January for six to nine months; the renovations to Memorial should be complete by January. Vince Postell asked whether Sequoia would be closed completely; Dr. Chute said that the building contains asbestos and that the abatement process would take time.

Dr. Chute expressed her appreciation for Christian Griggs and the Faculty Development Committee for organizing the Bold Talks event.

Sarah Mergel thanked Chris Wozny, Kent Harrelson, and Matt Hipps for their service on the executive committee for the past two years.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:19.

Respectfully submitted,

Kent Harrelson

Senate secretary