Staff Senate, October 13, 2020

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Recommended Citation
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Staff Senate

October 13, 2020
Meeting Minutes

Note: The remarks of the senators and others are summarized and not verbatim. The recording of this meeting is available in the Staff Senate Secretary’s office.

PRESENT: CJ Allard, Sandy Baldridge-Adrian, Matthew Barnes, Dwayne Beam, Penny Bell, Jean Bennett, April Betsch, Roger Brown, Alli Crandell, Britanny Donatelli, John Dooley, Mark Garrison, Judy Johns, David Klauder, Michelle Lewis, Ebony McCray, Melanie McKeefery, Kelly Moore, Sean Pierce, Justin Poindexter, Daniel Rabon, Wendy Singleton, David Speiser, Michele Varga, David Yancey, Travis Youngblood, Bobbi Yurkin, Sharlene Zwing

SUBSTITUTIONS: none

ABSENT: none

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. David DeCenzo; Dr. Dan Ennis; Travis Overton; Kim Sherfesee

- Sandy Baldridge-Adrian asked John Dooley to briefly go over Roberts Rules of Order before we begin the meeting. John explained that according to Roberts Rules of Order, a motion is made, a second is made to the motion, discussion follows, then the motion is voted on. Only Senators may take part in the motion process, discussion, and voting. Visitors may speak but only after being recognized by the Chair.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: approval of August minutes was moved by David Speiser and seconded by Kelly Moore. The minutes passed (28 in favor, 0 not in favor, 0 abstain) Approval of the September minutes was moved by David Klauder and seconded by Michele Varga. The minutes passed (28 in favor, 0 not in favor, 0 abstain)

SENATE PRESIDENT REMARKS: We now have two new ex officio seats, the Faculty Senate President, currently Dr. Brian Bunton, and the Student Government Association President, currently Darwin Flores. They are non-voting members.

PRESIDENT AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

President DeCenzo:

- Our Covid-19 numbers have come down dramatically, thank you to everyone on campus pitching in and doing your part to stop the spread of this virus.
- Dr. DeCenzo has been asked two questions that he wanted to answer for us.
  - Are we going to have 2 presidents on January 2, 2021? The answer is no. Dr. Benson will assume the duties of President on January 2nd and Dr. DeCenzo will move out of the
president’s office before that time and move to an office upstairs and will be available to Dr. Benson as he sees fit.

- The Post & Courier was able to get confidential information about Dr. Benson being confirmed as the new president before the Board of Trustees was able to announce it at their October meeting as planned. Over the past several months, someone on campus has been leaking information to the local media that could cause some concern. Please be aware that the local media is looking for negative stories that could potentially hurt the university.

Provost Ennis:

- We have reached the halfway point of the semester. Interim grades have come in and we don’t have any evidence of students being academically disadvantaged by our situation, grades look to be normal so far.
- The adjusted calendar for Spring 21 has been released. We are planning to start in-person (hybrid) classes on January 19 instead of January 11. We have included a plan to move seamlessly from hybrid to totally online instruction if the situation requires it.

Travis Overton:

- Dr. DeCenzo will indeed have a title of some sort once Dr. Benson is on campus working.
- There will be a Presidential Transition Committee convened. This committee will work to celebrate Dr. DeCenzo’s accomplishments during his tenure as president as well as celebrate Dr. Benson’s hire.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

In an effort to streamline Staff Senate meetings, but also continue to collect valuable employee feedback data, the Senate will begin referring Topic Suggestions that relate to specific areas of operation to the appropriate person in those areas. The Senate will continue to collect these submissions and will review them in total each semester to determine if there are organizational patterns that should be addressed by the Senate as a whole.

- none

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Student Pay Ad Hoc Committee – no report
Take Your Child to Work Committee – no report
Policy and Welfare Committee – no report
Membership Committee – no report
Communication Committee – no report

Kim Sherfesee reported that the 2021 Holiday Schedule is being finalized and should be released in the near future. Election day leave time instructions have been emailed to employees as this is not a holiday
for the university. Regarding the suggestion that we close the university for two weeks at winter break, the limited number of holidays that the state recognizes does not allow for two full weeks at winter break. The only other options to have two full weeks off would be an employee would use their leave time or would be in a leave without pay status.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

ANNOUNCEMENTS: none

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 am