

Minutes of CAS Faculty Senate Meeting, March 19, 2018, 104 Gore Hall, 4pm

Present: E. Bell, M. Dominguez Torres, M. Donovan, D. Galileo, J. Gizis, P. Gentry, A. Hayes, A. Hicks, T. Holden, K. Jasinska, S. Kaufman, Y. Leung, B. Ley, J. Martin, B. McKenna, S. McKenna, J. Morgan, J. Morrison, O. Olabisi, L. Overby, S. Patel, R. Rawat, K. Rosenberg, A. Sarzynsky, T. Seraphin, J. Serrano, D. Smith, L. Timmins, G. Watson

Also Present: A. Barrier

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:04PM.
2. The agenda was approved. Senate President Kaufman remarked that the December 2017 minutes will be considered at next meeting.
3. The minutes of the February 2018 senate meeting were approved.
4. Remarks from Senate President (Kaufman)
  - A. There was a brief update on the Diversity and Retention committee. The committee chair (Robin Philips-Pendleton) met with Carol Henderson, was also appointed as diversity advocate, and met with the Office of Equity and Inclusion. Jennifer Daniels offered to brief the college senate; this presentation is expected at the next meeting.
  - B. There was also a brief update on efforts to improve teaching. The executive committee plans to invite the head of CTAL (Kathy Pusecker) for the next senate meeting.
5. Remarks from College Dean (Watson): No remarks
6. Committee Report from Educational Affairs
  - S. Kaufman presented an overview of a proposed resolution to amend the guidelines for Second Writing Requirement courses. There was an extended discussion. Some senators argued that the proposed change specifying “two assignments” was confusing. The intention is that the second assignment might include substantial revisions of a first draft. It was felt that the senate was not yet ready to vote on the proposal. A. Barrier explained that the intention in changing the guidelines was to make the requirements clearer for a) students requesting substitutes, who argue that a single long paper is sufficient and b) faculty proposing new classes. The committee is not trying to add assignments but a single paper due the last week of class should not meet the Second Writing Requirement. S. Kaufman suggested that faculty communicate their ideas to A. Barrier, with the intention of having a vote at the next Senate meeting on a solid proposal. There was discussion of the idea of listing all the requirements for a Second Writing Requirement class instead of a paragraph. There was also a discussion of limiting class size to 25 given the need for feedback on the writing.
7. Committee report from COCAN
  - J. Morgan reported that he now had many volunteers for the committee openings. However, while there are many associate professors volunteering for the P&T committee, there is still a need for full professors.

8. Preliminary Discussion of a change in term limits for members of the Promotions and Tenure Committee  
S. Kaufman led a preliminary discussion of the idea of amending the bylaws to allow a second consecutive two-year term on the college P&T committee. (At present, only a single term is allowed.) The current committee chair, A. Fox, spoke in favor. This is an essential committee with a steep learning curve. He would be willing to stay on to advise the next committee chair. J. Morgan pointed out that the university P&T committee allows a second term. There was a discussion of whether a single three-year or allowing a second two-year term would be preferable. The discussion concluded that A. Fox will draft a bylaw change for both alternatives -- a single three-year term or adding the possibility of a second two-year term.
9. Preliminary Discussion of a social gathering.  
S. Kaufman led a discussion of his proposal to hold a social gathering for all CAS college senators and college senate committee members. This informal gathering may encourage interdisciplinary collaborations. (The previous idea of four portfolio committees led nowhere.) Dean Watson observed that CAS once held an informal meeting of all CAS College and University Senators. It could stimulate conversations. A number of senators spoke in favor.
10. The presentation on the benefits of small class size on the agenda did not happen.
11. Unfinished business: None considered.
12. New Business: J. Morgan suggested senators review the current writing requirements at the colleges they attended, and then have a discussion in April of what we could be doing better.
13. The meeting was adjourned at 5:05PM.