

Clayton State University – Faculty Senate Minutes

Monday January 28, 2013 (11:00 am-12:15 pm)

University Center Board Room UC260

➤ **Meeting Called to Order: 11:01am**

➤ Members Present: Scott Butterfield, Jennell Charles, Qui Fang, Randall Gooden, Todd Janke, Jim Keebler, Kathryn Kemp, Barbara Musolf, Erin Nagel, Ken Nguyen, Katherine Ott, Muhammad Rahman, Terri Summers, J. Celeste Walley-Jean, David Williams, Ximena Zornosa

➤ Non-Members Present: Micheal Crafton, Tim Hynes, Robert Vaughn

➤ **Approval of Minutes**

- Minutes approved.

➤ **Reports**

➤ **President**

- President Hynes provided a document with the current mission statement that was previously accepted by Faculty Senate. The document also included the mission statement that is currently in place with the University System. President Hynes emphasized that while university actions for the last two years have reflected the new mission statement, formal acceptance of the change to the university mission statement is required by the Board of Regents as part of our reaffirmation process for SACS (outlined by BOR Principle 2.4). Our institutional SACS leaders, Drs. Robert Vaughn and Jill Lane, suggested that we would be best prepared to address any questions that SACS visitors may raise by combining our mission, vision, and goals into a single mission statement. President Hynes' goal was to inform the Senate that a revised mission statement reflecting what he described as largely an editorial and not substantive change was sent to the BOR for approval. President Hynes further explained that what was sent is a reorganizing of things that have been endorsed by university already so that SACS can more readily see that we are in compliance with the BOR principle. Senator Barbara Musolf asked when this revision occurred. Dr. Vaughn explained that the summary revision is in an effort to have a succinct message that incorporates all the elements that will be readily assessable on the BOR website. Senator Kay Kemp inquired whether the word "research" could be added to the revised statement. President Hynes replied no and explained that research activity is inherent in our core mission of teaching and learning and absence a "research institution" designation from the USG, we will continue to subsume research in this way.
- President Hynes also reported that the discussion around online learning has begun on our campus. He expressed thanks to Ms. Janet Winkler in Continuing Education, Dr. Crafton, and Jim Flowers for supporting a visit by Dr. Nelson Baker of Georgia Tech on the topic of MOOCS. The president indicated that there appears to be emerging some important discussion under the direction of academic affairs that constitutes the framework for the "innovative instructional strategies" he mentioned at the last meeting. He also reported that the Technology Planning Committee is scheduled to have its first meeting this week, offering yet

another chance to make strategies for using technology to foster learning across campus more accessible to the campus community.

- President Hynes had no updates on campus conversations addressing issues of diversity and inclusion; however, he reported that he anticipates material on inclusion, diversity, and community and campus engagement at one or more of upcoming senate meetings. President Hynes reiterated that he continues to limit discussions on specific personnel actions taken by the university, but he noted that actions have been taken that are consistent with investigations by HR both at this institution and with the assistance of the university system. He highlighted that actions taken were not based on any speech acts but on the basis of job description workplace activities.
- The president also stated that the general assembly has begun its 40-day session. While the governor did not include the Clayton State science building project as part of his recommendations for general issue bonds, President Hynes revealed that the administration is in discussion with members of the general assembly to determine ways to have the project potentially added. He also highlighted that the assembly will likely take up issues such as guns on campuses, among other matters potentially affecting our university, and that it is not apparent what the outcome of these discussions will be at this time.
- President Hynes concluded by announcing that P&T revisions should be out to faculty vote online today and thanking Senate for the willingness to serve and bringing the changes in the faculty handbook to a vote.
- Senator Keebler asked President Hynes for an update on the archives. President Hynes responded that the Chancellor has appointed a committee to make recommendations of steps that are required to be taken to transition the authority of the state archives from secretary of state to USG. He also voiced that there is an attempt to craft a public education strategy while ensuring that we preserve the important record-keeping functions of the archives. President Hynes also restated that having Professor Richard Pearce-Moses as part of our institution is beneficial because he is an authority.

➤ Provost

- Provost Crafton announced that, Myk Garn, a vice-president from www.straighter.com will be visiting campus to discuss their product and partnership on Thursday at 2pm in UC 272. Provost Crafton described that the company offers “courses in a can” which aren’t taught by a professor. He indicated that one institution in the USG has partnered to accept credit from these classes. Provost Crafton expressed that he hopes that after these presentations we can have a campus discussion. He proclaimed that although Complete College Georgia is still the top priority, right around the corner is online education (e.g., MOOC, etc.). A suggestion was made to videotape the presentation so that those who can’t attend will still have access. Provost Crafton assured senators that this will occur.
- Senator Keebler reiterated that three quarters of faculty reported that they want the ability to administer their final exam during the final class period and sought to put forth a motion to allow department chairs, second to APC approval, to decide if this is acceptable for faculty in their respective department. Provost Crafton inquired whether, prior to going forward for a vote, if the issue needed to go through the Academic Policy Committee? President Hynes also inquired if this

change would run afoul to the instructional time required by the BOR? Provost Crafton responded no. Senator Randall Gooden stated that he would like to see a more broad discussion prior to making the change official. Senator David Williams added that regardless of what the ultimate policy is, all faculty should be required to abide by it. He restated the sentiment that some disciplines need every ounce of instructional time. Senator Kay Kemp echoed that there seems to be a need for additional investigation about what faculty needs are, and Senator Barbara Musolf stated that the decision concerning when a final is given should be pedagogically-based. The motion was tabled and the issue was referred to APC.

➤ **Returning Business**

➤ SEI recommendations for student evaluations

- Senator Keebler reported that the SEI recommendation for student evaluations has been thoroughly vetted with the fourteen department chairs. He stated the summary has been forwarded to the SAC for input from SGA. Senator Keebler indicated that once approved in SAC, implementation will occur in collaboration with Jill Lane. He voiced a hope that this can be accomplished by fall 2013. Senator David Williams asked what the point of asking for student input is if documents aren't public. Senator Keebler responded that students may have important feedback. Senator Jennell Charles put forward that opening it up to student input will likely delay things tremendously. She also added that if students are taking the time to provide input, something should be done with that input. Senator Williams countered that given the instrument is ONLY used for improvement of our teaching and P&T considerations, where does student input become relevant. Senator Kemp added that nothing in the suggested revisions to the process affects students except in the broad sense so she expected that student input would not go beyond "did we miss something." Senator Williams stated that the manner in which students are being administered student evaluations and the consequences for not completing them are the only issues that affect students. Senator Keebler concluded that he will talk to Augustine Ayuk, chair of the SAC, so that he can feel positive about presenting this to students.

➤ Discussion of All Faculty vote on revised P&T section of Faculty Handbook

- See above

➤ **New Business**

- Discussion of use of Social Media – Faculty and Staff responsibilities
 - Senator Keebler pointed out one line in the document indicating that if any department has more explicit guidelines, these guidelines supersede the University guidelines. Senator Gooden asked shouldn't department guidelines be superseded by University guidelines? Senator Williams pointed out that University guidelines are typically less restrictive and departments may be more delineated. President Hynes indicated that the intention was related to issue that certain departments may have specific needs (e.g., non-academic departments such as Public Safety vs. an academic department). Senator Keebler suggested changing the word "explicit" to "additional." Senator Kemp asked if she should remove any

reference to Clayton State from her personal Twitter and Facebook accounts. President Hynes responded that the guidelines are meant to be advisory. He reiterated that they are intended to encourage people to be more intentional about their interaction with social media and that each of us has to wrestle with the notion of how much we can separate our personal selves from our professional selves in the social media world. He stated that we need to be aware that these things (ie., our presence, words, etc.) on social media have a life of their own. Senator Scott Butterfield pointed out a typo on Page 1, #10 has typo “medial” rather than “media.” Senator Williams asserted that the guidelines appear to be a good commonsense set of guidelines and wants the administration to definitely make sure it’s clear that it is advisory and not policy.

- Discuss need for Ad Hoc committee on offensive language and imagery
 - Senator Celeste Walley-Jean requested that we re-visit the idea of establishing an ad hoc committee to address issues of diversity and inclusion, not simply a committee to discuss offensive language and imagery. Senator Kemp voiced that she felt this was “very risky” in that we don’t want a committee policing speech. Senator Walley-Jean reiterated that the idea was not to form a committee policing speech, but, rather, a committee that will serve as a more proactive body addressing issues of inclusion and diversity. Senator Gooden noted that the Confederate Flag could be an opportunity to have discussions about diversity. President Hynes reminded the Senate that he still plans to have these issues be part of a campus-wide conversation.

➤ **Updates from Subcommittees**

- Academic Policy Committee
 - No report
- Faculty Affairs Committee
 - Meeting Thursday and continuing to work on forms
- Graduate Affairs Committee
 - Met a week or two ago and members were asked to review policies/procedures, etc. for SACS compliance
- Student Affairs Committee
 - No report
- Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
 - Meeting on Feb. 1st

➤ **Suggestions for New Business at next meeting**

- Senator Gooden asked is there any possibility of tuition waivers for dependents? President Hynes indicated that he would check with Human Resources but reported that generally the issue of who can have tuition waivers is made by BOR. Senator Williams expressed that as a person who doesn’t have dependents, he would be somewhat opposed to some people being given a benefit that isn’t readily available to everyone.
- Senator Kemp asked for more comments about guns on campus. President Hynes responded that guns, unless carried by an officer in uniform, are not allowed on this campus. He expressed that he feels very strongly about this issue. Senator

Kemp asked if it would be appropriate for a body like to send a statement to the legislature stating our position to which Senator Williams amended that he thought we could send a statement to USG Faculty Council. President Hynes also added that the BOR does not want to see a change in the current policy on guns on campus. Senator Butterfield asked what can be done if the political climate changed and there is a law passed that allowed concealed weapons to be carried. President Hynes replied that he did not know but that we could look at other institutions, such as University of Utah who are wrestling with similar issues.

- Finally, Senator Keebler indicated that he will check with Jill Lane and Antoinette Miller on the status of the QEP and SACS reaffirmation for the next meeting.

Adjourned: 12:15pm