

Voting members present:

Charles Abraham
Debra Allen
Lacey Blessitt
Jana Donahoe
Severine Groh
David Hebert

Christopher Jurgenson
Jesse Kelley
Hyejin Kim
Eckward McKnight
Michaela Merryday
Lekeitha Morris

Bret Pimentel
Temika Simmons
Jeff Smithpeters
Amit Verma
Timothy Watkins
Eyad Youssef
Franco Zengaro

01) Meeting called to order @ 3:35pm by President-elect Youssef.

02) Agenda: Approved

Minutes of 12/10/15 FS meeting approved with corrections. Motion by Senators Merryday and Pimentel.

03) University Entities

Report from Graduate Council – President-elect Youssef: Nothing to report.

Report from BPAC – The James Bond movie Spectre is playing at 7pm on 1/21/16 (\$5). Peter Rabbit Tale matinees at 9:30am and 11:30am on 1/29/16. Tickets are still available for the musicals Annie (2/2/16 at 7:30pm) and Mamma Mia! (2/21/16 at 7:30pm). These two main stage events have very elaborate sets and are family friendly.

04) Faculty Senate Committees

Committee on University Services – Senator Groh: Nothing to report.

Committee on University Standing Committees – Senator McKnight encourages faculty to contact their committee chairs if no meeting has yet been scheduled this academic year. University Standing Committees should meet at least once before April 2016

Committee on Elections – Senator Allen welcomes Dr. Kim, senator for the division of Social Sciences and History and Dr. Beals, proxy for the division of Counselor Education and Psychology. The new representatives for the Merit Pay Appeals Committee should be known soon. The process for the elections of the 2016-2019 senators will start mid-February 2016. Nominations for the 2016-2017 President-elect are due at the March 2016 FS meeting.

Committee on Technology – Senator Abraham: Nothing to report.

Committee on General Academic Affairs – A resolution drafted by Committee Chair Smithpeters about the last day to drop a course will be read to FS.

05) Old Business

1. **Change of date for the April FS meeting** - The April FS meeting scheduled on 4/14/16 needs to be postponed to 4/21/16 since President-elect Youssef will be away on conference. Motion accepted unanimously (Senators McKnight and Jurgenson).
2. **Flag** - Senators should have received an email with the weblink for the flag survey designed by President-elect Youssef. Senators should share the link with their department so the entire faculty can be polled. The survey will close Friday 2/5/16.

3. **Evaluation of the faculty annual evaluation pilot form** - Senator Hebert presented the feedback from the three units that had piloted the form in spring 2015: Math, Biological Sciences, and DMI. Faculty seemed mainly concerned that summarizing performance in numbers was reductive and that the form should include more options for dialogue. This was especially the case for data regarding course evaluations for which the main concern was the validity of the data reported due to the overall low response rates. The subsequent discussion during which many senators shared their own approach to promote students interest led to the following: While it will be interesting to find out the impact of the shortened course evaluation (12 questions since spring 2015 versus 32 questions before that) on the student participation rate, finding fair and ethically appropriate approaches to increase student participation is critical. A consensus was to develop a guide of best practices and senator Hebert will be in charge of it (Motion by senators Simmons / Groh, in favor, 17; abstention, 1).
4. **Syllabus** – The question was to streamline the list of policy that should be part of all the syllabi. Senator Hebert has started compiling a list of the critical policies that should be included on the syllabi and linking them to the corresponding DSU webpages that are fixed. One policy for which the link was not yet found is the one regarding the DSU okramail email address being the official line of communication between students and faculty. Senator Hebert will continue with the list and let FS know about it. It was also suggested to have the policy links directly available through the Canvas course shells.
5. **Deadline to drop a course** – A resolution presented by the committee on general academic affairs is read and discussed. The resolution will be reworded to strengthen the rationale and to spell out the meaning of the “60% completion of class session”.
6. **Policy and timeline for pre-tenure and tenure portfolio submissions** – 1) The Committee on General Academic Affairs will draft a resolution to solve the issue of the disparity across departments/divisions regarding the timeline of pre-tenure portfolio reviews of faculty hired with 1 to 4 years of credit. 2) Senators will seek feedback from their departments regarding the timeline for submission of 1) pre-tenure portfolio (years 2 and 4 vs years 3 and 5 vs years 3 only and September versus February 1st) and 2) tenure portfolio (September versus December of year 5).

06) New business

1. President-elect Youssef indicated that an online distance policy was about to be voted on. However, when this policy was drafted and the content of this policy are unclear. Senators are encouraged to get back to their department to try slowing down the vote thereby allowing FS to read the policy before it will be voted on.

07) Meeting adjourned @ 4:48pm. Motion by Senators McKnight and Groh.

Next meetings

Executive Committee Meeting Date:
Senate Meeting Date:

February 4, 2015 – Faculty Lounge
February 11, 2016 – 3:30pm – Union 302A