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Senate Minutes

Kutztown University Senate

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DECEMBER 3, 2015
ACADEMIC FORUM 103

Present: A. Arnold, C. Mapes (sub. D. Aruscavage), D. Beougher, M. Cardozo, A. Christman, K. Clair, AM Cordner, C. DeMarco, S. Doll-Myers, R. Flatley, A. Fu, M. Gallagher, J. Garcia, M. Gober, E. Hanna, J. Harasta, Dr. Hawkinson, L. Irving, M. Johnston, T. Pham (sub. R. Kaplan), Y. Kim, D. King, J. Kremser, D. Lea, L. Levine, J. Lizza, M. Maksy, S. Mangold, T. Wong (sub. P. McLoughlin), J. Metcalf, A. Milevsky, A. Morris, L. Norris, R. Portada, M. Radyk, V. Reidout, A. Rodriguez, J. Ronan, J. Schlegel, J. Scoboria, B. Sharkin, M. Sims, R.L. Smith, P. Walsh-Coates (sub. T. Stahler), J. Van Wyk, C. Walck, T. Williams, K. Steward (sub. A. Zayaitz)

Absent: J. Gehringer, H. Hamlet, M. Scheuing

Guests: C. Wells, T. Brown, M. Santos, J. Dillon, B. Althouse, A. Garrison, J. Silberman, B. Watrous

I. Call to Order

Senate President J. Schlegel called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM. Prior to this, light refreshments were served and Senators brought donations for Friend Inc.'s food pantry.

II. Announcements – J. Schlegel

A. President's Holiday Celebration

J. Schlegel reminded Senators of the Presidents' Holiday Celebration Dec. 6, 1-3 PM, in the Georgian Room. It is not too late to RSVP.

B. December Graduation

Graduation exercises are Dec. 12, 9 AM, in the Field House. Senators are encouraged to attend.

C. Webinar

J. Schlegel announced a webinar on Racial Climate on Campus, on Dec. 9, 2-3:30, MSU 183. Please RSVP (jday@kutztown.edu).

D. Food Pantry Donations

J. Schlegel thanked Senators for their donations for Friend Inc.'s food pantry, which assists KU students. The campus community has been generous all semester as students continue to struggle with the added burden of the PA state budget impasse.

E. Hanna: Senate should thank J. Schearer for volunteering to take the considerable contributions to Friend Inc. Senators affirmed.

E. Grace Hill Retirement

J. Schlegel highlighted Grace Hill's considerable contributions to KU. She noted her "strong, affirming voice for all," her implementation of the HEART program, her work as Director of the Women's Center and LGBTQ Resource Center. University Senate recognizes Ms. Hill with great appreciation, and extends hearty congratulations upon her retirement.

III. Approval of the Agenda

J. Schlegel: the Agenda needs to be revised. Documents and rationales required for informed deliberation of Policies ACA-031 and ACA-054 were incomplete; and not submitted in time for sufficient review. A. Morris moved that agenda be revised by striking items VIII B. and C.; M. Gallagher seconded.

No debate. Motion to revise the Agenda adopted. Revised Agenda approved.

IV. Approval of the Minutes

J. Schlegel moved to approve the minutes from the November 5, 2015 meeting. She asked for any substantive corrections; none. Minutes approved.

V. Approval of Graduates for December 2015

J. Schlegel: names for candidates for December graduation have been distributed. Senate's most honored responsibility is to approve undergraduate and graduate candidates who will have completed their degree requirements to graduate. J. Scoboria moved, M. Gallagher seconded, to approve those students for graduation on December 12, 2015. Motion approved unanimously.

VI. Election of Senate Officers – K. Clair

K. Clair stated that the Elections Committee had received no further nominations for either University Vice President or Secretary. **Any further nominations from the floor? None. [HELP! did anyone move/2nd to close nominations? Was I distributing ballots? WHAT was I doing?!]**

J. Schlegel: Senate Constitution calls for a vote by ballot. K. Clair distributed ballots. By a show of ballots, J. Ronan was unanimously elected for Vice President; L. Norris for Secretary. Terms begin August 2016.

VII. Old Business

A. ACA-042: Academic Warning, Probation and Dismissal – A. Garrison, Chair, Academic Standards and Policy Committee (ASPC)

A. Garrison introduced proposed revisions. ASPC has restored language on part-time students and removed the language regarding the 0.00 CGPA after the first semester due to limited support, noting that there are other ways to assist these students. ASPC has made a motion to accept these revisions; no second needed.

J. Schlegel: Is there any debate on this motion? Discussion

C. Mapes: Under "Dismissal," part-time students are again not addressed.

D. Beougher: to be consistent, add language that student's status will be evaluated for every 12 credits attempted.

A. Arnold: This is word smithing. Either send policy back to ASPC or have a few Senators work together to come up with wording that reflects University Senate suggestions.

J. Schlegel: asked for volunteers for an ad hoc committee to do this: K. Clair, A. Garrison, D. Beougher, C. Mapes.

A. Vogel: clarification: students not in good standing are "required" to use Academic Enrichment services. What mechanisms are in place to verify? Can it be required if this is not verifiable?

A. Garrison: Onus is on the student.

V. Reidout: CASA reaches out to those students.

S. Mangold: Undergraduate Exceptions Committee (UEC) checks on whether such students have used Support Services.

C. Mapes: Suggests substituting "expected" for "required."

J. Schlegel: Ad hoc committee to craft revision language will address this also.

T. Wong: How can a student meet the 2.0 requirement when it is not statistically possible?

A. Garrison: They can meet 2.0 if they retake courses they failed.

J. Schlegel: Other mechanisms are in place (UEC) and the new GPA calculator on MyKU makes clear whether a student can meet that goal.

D. Beougher: Rigid rules will make it harder for students. UEC and Graduate Exceptions

Committee (GEC) allow flexibility by considering cases on an individual basis.

J. Schlegel called for a motion to table while the ad hoc committee convenes to craft language to present to Senate. Motion: M. Sims; second, A. Vogel. Approved.

VIII. New Business

A. Letter in Support of Student Polling Station – A. Morris, Chair, ad hoc task force

A. Morris recognized the University Senators who had worked to write a letter to support SGB's goal of returning Precinct Three's polling station to Keystone Hall (A. Arnold, J. Lizza, R. Portada, Friend of Senate B. McCree). Members worked collaboratively for a document to send to the Maxatawny Board of Elections with a copy to the Berks County Commissioners. Senators are invited to add their signatures to the letter in support of this effort. The Board meets in January 2016. The letter was circulated for Senators to sign.

J. Schlegel: Thanked the ad hoc committee for their work.

D. Lea: A local newspaper noted difficulty of parking for Precinct voters. The university needs to publicize that ample parking will be available.

J. Schlegel: Senate can request the Administration to assure the Board of that.

Dr. Hawkinson: Gave a clear "thumbs up" to affirm Administration's support.

J. Scoboria thanked the task force and Senate supporters.

VII. President, Committee, Task Force Reports

A. Senate President's Report – J. Schlegel

1. Active Shooter Situation Training: In light of ongoing campus shootings, J. Schlegel acknowledged the difficult times we face, quoting Rabbi Jonathan Sacks: "the answer to violence is conversation." How well are we preparing our students, our graduates, as they go into the world, to have these difficult conversations, to dare to see multiple perspectives, to ask purposeful questions, to find common ground and to understand that compromise is not surrender? We need to learn ways to have difficult conversations about critical issues; Senators are encouraged to consider ideas for productive dialogue; get input from constituents.

KU police and security are conducting information and training sessions to any group or individual that requests them.

Dr. Hawkinson: protocols and procedures are in place. KU has trained and deputized officers and also protocols with other law enforcement agencies in the event of an emergency. Additionally, promotional brochures and posters have been created for distribution, but there is some disagreement about the language and/or their presence that is preventing that.

J. Silberman: drafts of materials can be viewed at:

<http://www3.kutztown.edu/webshare/safety/emtposter.pdf>

<http://www3.kutztown.edu/webshare/safety/emtclassroom.pdf>

<http://www3.kutztown.edu/webshare/safety/emtpocketguide.pdf>

<http://www3.kutztown.edu/webshare/safety/emtflipbook.pdf>

Police Chief J. Dillon: emergency training has been available for the last ten years. Officers regularly train for such emergencies between semesters. He welcomes meeting with individuals and departments/units, including best emergency responses in specific spaces.

J. Schlegel: Faculty Senators, please encourage your APSCUF representatives to encourage movement on distribution of informational pamphlets and posters; APSCUF currently opposed.

J. Lizza: What about the current firearm policy on campus?

J. Dillon: The approved policy is currently not in effect; there is a stay on this.

J. Scoboria: This is very much on students' minds.

Officer B. Althouse: Training is important not just for campus, but for any place.

A. Christman: Presentation and training were very helpful in College of Business.

Interested individuals and/or groups should contact Public Safety to set up a session.

J. Schlegel suspended her report and asked the ad hoc committee on amending Policy ACA-042 to present their proposed language.

K. Clair presented the committee's proposed amendments, which reflect suggestions from deliberations under VII. A., Old Business. They are:

D. Academic Warning:

1. Add "full time" between "Any" and "student falling below..."
2. After "evaluated every 12 credits," remove "with completion of 24 credits"

D. Academic Probation:

1. bullet point 3: replace "required" with "expected"

D. Dismissal:

1. After the first sentence, "A Student who falls below..." and before the second sentence, insert this sentence: "A part-time student who is on academic probation must bring his or her CGPA up to 2.0 or higher within 12 credits attempted or will be dismissed."

K. Clair moved to accept the amendments as presented; second, A. Corder.

J. Schlegel: Debate on this? None. Motion to amend passes.

Motion to accept revisions to ACA-042 as amended: Motion approved. Three abstentions.

Senate President's Report, continued.

2. ASPC will be considering University Policies ACA-021 and 071 – on double majors and dual degrees. Currently dual degrees require 150 credits.

J. Schlegel: Senators please examine these policies and solicit input from your constituents. Send feedback to ASP committee as they consider these policies.

3. Academic gap: A Reading Eagle article on graduation gaps between ethnic groups, drawing upon a report from The Education Trust, both of which highlighted KU as one of the few schools not making more progress. However, this is a priority Presidential Initiative. There is also improvement from the 2013 data cited in these publications.

B. Senate Vice President's Report – J. Ronan

1. The Committee on Committees (CoC) is working with several committees to revise by-laws.
2. Willingness to Serve forms will be set up in January. CoC will make appointments at its April meeting.

C. University President's Report – Dr. Hawkinson

1. Dual Degrees: Dr. Hawkinson is in conversation with Harrisburg about this. Some dual degrees can be met by no more than 123 or 126 credits. The 150 credit mandate hinders students from pursuing dual degrees due to cost and time; seems unnecessary.

2. Dr. Hawkinson further addressed the academic gap between ethnic groups. The data cited by Education Trust is accurate but old. KU must do more to support these students; another retention issue. KU has reduced graduation rate gap from 20% to 13%. He plans a forum on this topic in January to help develop a concrete action plan.

3. PA State budget impasse: KU is strained although it can manage. PA owes KU 19 million; especially hard on students.

4. Lytle Hall: Administration has met with faculty. Based on their input and budgetary problems, Acting Provost A. Zayaitz and J. Silberman recommend deferring renovations and look at alternatives to resolve the problem of the failing facility.

5. Dr. Hawkinson has met with 90 groups so far: academic departments, staff, etc. and will continue.

6. There will be an update on Presidential Initiatives by the end of the year.
7. KU will have a newly designed website soon.

D. Student Government Board Report – J. Scoboria

1. J. Scoboria expressed appreciation for University Senate support for returning Precinct Three's polling station to Keystone Hall.
2. Nominations for SGB positions close December 4.
3. SGB succeeded in their initiative to expand library hours during exam week.
4. J. Scoboria toured the MSU renovations, to open in January 2016. Students should provide feedback.
5. SGB passed a preliminary budget for student clubs; 2/3 voted to approve.
6. The PA budget impasse has hurt students very badly. J. Scoboria commended the KU Administration for steps taken to help students.

E. Academic Technology Committee Report – M. Sims

1. IT's Data Center and Media Studio are available to tour.
2. Media Studio is available for video capture and streaming for instructional use via D2L. Computer software for narration for instructional use via D2L is also available. Those interested should contact the IT Help Center.
3. CRM: Customer Relations Management System. Collects data; can send and receive automatic updates.
4. Computer replenishments: Summer and Fall 2016. C. Walck is the contact person.
5. IT Task Force to build a KU portal will meet in early 2016.
6. Committee is working with IT so they schedule updates in a timely fashion to minimize impact on students and faculty.
7. M. Sims stated that she is the contact person for any issues.

F. Facilities Master Plan – J. Silberman and T. Brown

Powerpoint of the presentation is available here:

<http://www.kutztown.edu/about-ku/administration/university-senate/ad-hoc-task-forces-and-links.htm>

1. This is a 20-year plan, revisited and updated as circumstances warrant.
2. South Dining Hall: to be addressed Spring/Summer 2016.
3. Five Year Capital Submission:
 - a. DeFrancesco: top priority for renovation. Approved and funded but funds frozen.
 - b. Poplar House: approved for renovation/expansion 2019-20, but PA Legislature has not yet approved funding. It will be a Visitor Center, with general information, parking passes and an Admissions component. Also information on the region to promote Town/Gown relations.

X. As May Arise

None.

XI. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 5:46 PM

Respectfully submitted:

L. Norris

Secretary, University Senate

