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Senate Minutes

Kutztown University Senate

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KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY
Minutes of the University Senate

Room 223, McFarland Student Union Building
Thursday, November 6, 2008

M. Sanelli called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Present: Andrew Arnold, Len Barish, Bobbie Berry, Javier Cevallos, Ed Christian, Ed Christian for Heather Thomas, Kate Clair, David Day for John Riley, James Delle, Camille DeMarco, Samantha Dennis, Dennis Dietrich, William Donner, Lorri Engstrom, Jack Entriken, Sudarshan Fernando, Todd Folk, Jo Cohen Hamilton, Gregory Hanson, Ted Hickman (Vice-President), Inmi Lee, JoAnn Mackesy, Susan Mangold, Elaine Mara, John McAndrew, James McNiff, George Muugi, George Paterno for Kathleen Hartman, Sylvia Pham, Ilene Prokup, Trucilla Sabatino, Chris Sacchi, Maria Sanelli (President), Steve Schnell, Joo Tan, Carlos Vargas-Aburto, Anke Walz (Secretary), Carole Wells, and Barth Yeboah.

Absent: At-Large Faculty Representative, Diane Fegely, Mitch Freed, James Hall, James Hvidding, Will Jefferson, Joe Lippincott, Keith Logan, Mark Mahosky, Management Representative, Robert Martin, Professional Staff Representative, Charles Roth, Paul Sable, and David Wagaman.

Also in Attendance: Carl Watson.

I. Announcements

M. Sanelli announced that the next Senate Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 4th, at 4:00 p.m. in SUB 250.

President Cevallos announced that the Board of Governors met two weeks ago and agreed to honor the Governor's request to put 4.25% of our budget on hold in case it would need to be returned to the state. The Board of Governors is hoping for a 5.7% increase of state funding for PASSHE next year, but this amount seems unrealistic.

President Cevallos announced that the centralized Campus Management System (SAP) will be phased out in the next few years after which each individual campus can use an alternative software program of their own choice, to be implemented by Fall, 2010. At that point we should be able to utilize +/- grading.

Provost Vargas announced that fifteen faculty lines have been approved for the upcoming year; these include conversions and replacements for retired faculty.

II. Approval of the Agenda

K. Clair moved, L. Barish seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

III. Approval of the Minutes

L. Barish moved, J. Delle seconded, to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2008 meeting. Motion passed.

IV. President, Committee and Task Force Reports

A. Senate President's Report

The Institutional Climate Task Force has been chosen and is ready to meet within the next two weeks. The Task Force consists of: Dr. Bobbie Berry and Heather Fountain (Commission on Human Diversity Representatives), Dr. Thomas Robinson III (Commission on the Status of Minorities Representative), Magdalena Monet (Commission on the Status of Women Representative), Rhonda Branford (Multicultural Services Director), Dr. Elaine Reed (Women's Center Director), Dr. Deryl Johnson (GLBTQ Interim Director), Patricia Richter (Disability Services/ADA Director), Dr. Paul Quinn (APSCUF President), Kevin McDonough (AFSCME President), Elizabeth Graham Stumpf (SCUPA President), Apryle Carney (Housing Representative), Barbara Taliferro (Administration Representative), KaAnne Doerrman (Social Equity Representative), Dr. Louis Rodriguez (Co-Chair) and Dr. Maria Sanelli (Co-Chair) (At-Large Faculty Representatives). M. Sanelli asked the SGB for a representative as well.

B. Committee on Committees Report

T. Hickman reported that there are no new appointments at this time.

T. Hickman has been working closely Elaine Mara (Secretary of SGB) to increase student involvement in the Governance Committees.

C. Enrollment Management Committee Report

T. Hickman spoke on behalf of Carol Watson, Chair of the Enrollment Management Committee. A report was handed out to the Senators which highlighted some preliminary statistical data (researched with the help of Lynold McGhee, Institutional Research & Planning Office) and included her own thoughts and suggestions. (This report was not shared with any members of the Enrollment Management Committee.) Dr. Watson's main concerns are: "The scope of this charge is so broad and the question so complex that it cannot be accurately addressed in the context of this committee." Also: "In order to develop a comprehensive report with information and conclusions useful toward making decisions on this issue, a more balanced group of individuals would be appropriate. It will be important to solicit students' perspectives in addition to statistical evidence to help establish reasons for any statistical trends that may appear."

D. General Education Task Force Report

J. Delle, Chair, summarized the charge of Task Force in three major goals: 1) to determine the composition and appointment process of the Task Force members, 2) to create a calendar for the process with benchmarks and timelines, and 3) to determine what steps will need to be taken to come up with an acceptable model that will work for all constituents. All three branches of our government will need to be represented, the Senate, APSCUF, and the Administration. A final report will be given at next month's Senate meeting with a set of recommendations to be approved. S. Dennis asked if the Task Force is planning on recommending a student representative to participate in the General Education process. J. Delle answered affirmatively, and S. Dennis volunteered to be that student representative.

V. Old Business

A. Senate Elections

S. Schnell spoke for the Senate Election Committee. The officer elections will be held in December. Both M. Sanelli and A. Walz expressed their willingness to run again for the offices of Senate President and Senate Secretary, respectively. Anyone else interested in running for one of these positions need to have their nomination form into the Senate Office by Friday, November 14th.

B. Large Classroom Task Force

In light of the Enrollment Management Committee Report M. Sanelli raised the question if a Large Classroom Task Force should be created by the Senate.

C. Vargas reported that he has been meeting with APSCUF representatives to identify and resolve any problems that the AF poses for the faculty.

A motion was made by L. Barish, seconded by T. Folk, and amended by J. Delle:

The University Senate will not create a Large Classroom Task Force. The Provost's Office will be asked to hold an open meeting for faculty teaching in large classrooms where the faculty can report any problems and successes.

The call to the question was made by T. Folk, seconded by E. Mara, and a vote was taken. There were 2 faculty opposed and 6 abstentions. The majority agreed so the motion passes.

VI. New Business

A. None at this time.

VII. Adjournment

T. Hickman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by S. Pham. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

Signed:

Dr. Maria Sanelli, President

Dr. Anke Walz, Secretary

11-11-08