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Senate Minutes

Kutztown University Senate

Fall 10-2-2014

Senate Minutes 10-2-14

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Kutztown University
Kutztown, Pennsylvania
UNIVERSITY SENATE MINUTES
<http://www.kutztown.edu/admin/usenate>
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October 2, 2014 - 4:00 p.m.
ACADEMIC FORUM 101

Present: D. Aruscavage, C. Bloh, S. Doll-Myers (sub. K. Clair), F. Cortez-Funk, L. Frye, K. Gardi, J. Gehringer, G. Bamberger (sub. M. Gober), H. Hamlet, E. Hanna, J. Harasta, L. Irving, J. Jackson, D. Johnson, M. Johnston, Y. Kim, A. Kirshman, J. Kremser, D. Lea, M. Le Bosse, L. Levine, J. Lizza, J. Mackin, M. Maksy, T. McNally, J. Metcalf, A. Morris, L. Norris, R. Portada, K. Prock, M. Radyk, A. Rodriguez, L. Scappaticci, J. Schlegel, H. Wuensche (sub. J. Scoboria), B. Sharkin, M. Sims, Acting President Vargas, P. Walsh-Coates, T. Williams

Absent: L. Brandt, A. Cordner, R. Kaplan, S. Mangold, B. McCree, J. Quezada, J. Ronan, R. Schaeffer

Guests: J. McCarthy, K. Dahlquist, C. Wells, T. Stewart, G. Clary, V. Reidout, K. Ehrensall, E. Nieves, M. White, D. Beougher, A. Zayaitz, B. Mowder, K. Shively, M. Geaney, N. Wunderly, G. Paterno, R. Chad Brown, E. Hogan, P. Quinn, B. Watrous, L. Fahy, J. Silberman, P. Dewey, L. Lantaff, K. Buschan, G. Craig, E. Powell, P. Brookins, R.L. Smith

- I. Call to Order
Senate President D. Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.
- II. Announcements: D. Johnson
Following reports, the Senate would move to a Committee of the Whole to hear reports and discuss retention. No actionable items can be proposed; discussion only.
- III. Approval of the Minutes from September 4, 2014
M. Maksy moved to approve the minutes from, 2014; seconded by E. Hanna; motion approved
- IV. Old Business
None
- V. New Business
None
- VI. President, Committee, Task Force Reports
 - A. Senate President's Report – D. Johnson
 1. November meeting: revisions to 8 policies will be considered. Policies relate to governance structure, and which committee reports to which governance bodies.
 2. For November meeting, nominations for Senate Executive positions will be open.

Positions are: President (three year term) and Secretary (one year term). Elections will take place in December. The Senate Nominations Committee oversees the process. Membership is M. Sims (chair), D. Lea and B. McCree

3. A Task Force has been formed to examine the Elections section of the Senate Constitution. D. Johnson appointed L. Norris to chair; other members are L. Levine, L. Scappaticci, and R. Schaeffer (ex officio).

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

1. Eight committees are revising (or writing) their by-laws. They will be updated on the Senate website.

C. Acting President Report – C. Vargas

1. Admissions: compared to this time last year, the number of applications are up. Data shows the academic profile of students is rising.

2. Associate Provost for Retention and Student Success, A. Kirshman, will coordinate retention efforts across the university.

D Senate Discussion on Retention- Committee of the Whole – D. Johnson

D. Johnson impressed upon Senators to make their constituencies aware of retention efforts, and to go to the Senate website to access the information presented. A series of reports were presented, followed by questions and discussion.

1. Institutional Research: G. Clary

a. Overall Admissions are down 6.22%. Several Colleges are up; College of Ed and Graduate programs are substantially down.

b. rates of retention (first year returning students), persistence (continuation; second year to grad) and 6-year graduation rates are all slightly up. But KU has lowest persistence rate in the PASSHE system.

c. For details, consult Enrollment, Retention, Graduation, Continuation Update – Fall 2014 linked to Senate web page: <http://www.kutztown.edu/admin/usenate/>

2. Strategic Planning and Resources (SPRC): B. Donner, T. Stewart

a. SPRC has a lengthy draft of retention initiatives across the university, outlining practices and systems that positively impact retention. Consult Retention Programs Draft through Senate web page: <http://www.kutztown.edu/admin/usenate/>

b. Once information is compiled fully, further actions can be taken. Proposals from SPRC may be forthcoming for the November meeting.

3. Student Support Systems: A. Kirshman and T. Stewart

a. CASA, academic enrichment: initiatives and early results. Consult CASA – Academic Enrichment document linked to Senate home page: <http://www.kutztown.edu/admin/usenate/>

b. T. Stewart: Academic Enrichment and Exploratory Studies (formerly Undeclared)

students

-all academic support services are now housed together in the library. Consult CASA document noted above.

-currently 750 Exploratory Studies students; encourage positive view and to actively explore areas of academic interest.

c. Academic Jeopardy: E. Nieves

-aggressive mentoring during and between terms for students in Academic distress

-ACA 70 policy (no Exploratory status after 39 credits; must declare a major): Is

having positive impact on retention and graduation: 27.25%. fewer students have Exploratory Studies status.

consult ACA-70 Declaring a Major for analysis link on Academic through Senate home page: <http://www.kutztown.edu/admin/usenate/>

d. A. Kirshman: CASA, Academic Enrichment and Career Development work together

4. Housing and Residential Life: K. Dahlquist

a. A series of initiatives, organizations and workshops was presented, especially focusing on first year students to engage them from the start. Consult the link, Housing, Residence Life and Dining Services for specifics and plans for future retention efforts through Senate home page: <http://www.kutztown.edu/admin/usenate/>

5. Enrollment Management Task Force: J. Silberman

a. A Strategic Enrollment Management Plan, 2013-2016, was presented. Consult Strategic Enrollment Management document through link on Senate home page: <http://www.kutztown.edu/admin/usenate/>

6. Student Affairs, Student Involvement, Student Union: B. Watrous

a. Retention is at the heart of areas overseen by Dean of Students, who outlined a number of programs to support students. Consult Academic and Student Affairs link on Senate home page: <http://www.kutztown.edu/admin/usenate/>

Discussion:

1. H. Wuensche, SGB representative, gave student perspective on what works, and what undermines retention.

a. a close culture of belonging

b. the quality of advising is a "huge issue"

A Task Force of APSCUF/Senate will look into advising.

2. What about retaining strong students? We need data on retaining strong students.

3. Transfer students (external and internal): minimum GPA is a barrier; negatively impacts retention; but sometimes this may be necessary to prevent students from failing

4. Retention not just about academics but across the entire university. Students need to be consistently treated with civility and respect.

5. Retention of faculty is also critical. Engaged, dynamic, effective faculty attract and retain students.

Possible to form a committee to investigate strategies for retaining faculty and staff.

VIII. As May Arise

None

IX. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

L. Norris

University Senate Secretary