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Senate Minutes

Kutztown University Senate

Fall 9-4-2014

Senate Minutes 9-4-14

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September 4, 2014 - 4:00 p.m.
ACADEMIC FORUM 101

Present: D. Aruscavage, C. Bloh, A. Lemon (sub. for K. Clair), A. Cordner, L. Frye, K. Gardi, J. Gehringer, E. Hanna, J. Harasta, L. Irving, D. Johnson, M. Johnston, R. Kaplan, Y. Kim, A. Kirshman, J. Kremser, M. Le Bosse, L. Levine, J. Lizza, J. Mackin, M. Maksy, S. Mangold, B. McCree, T. McNally, A. Morris, L. Norris, R. Portada, K. Prock, J. Quezada, M. Radyk, A. Rodriguez, J. Ronan, L. Scappaticci, R. Schaeffer, J. Schlegel, J. Scoboria, B. Sharkin, M. Sims, Acting President Vargas, P. Walsh Coates, T. Williams

Absent: F. Cortez Funk, M. Gober, H. Hamlet, J. Jackson, D. Lea, J. Metcalf

Guests: T. Brown, C. Wells, G. Hill, J. Dillon, B. Watrous, S. Picus, D. Beougher, K. Scranage, J. Pena, J. Silberman, V. Reidout

I. Call to Order

Senate President D. Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

II. Announcements

A. Election Results: L. Norris announced results of recent elections:

1. 3 At-Large Senators: Amanda Morris, Susan Mangold, Todd Williams
2. VPA representative to Committee on Committees: Russell Todd Rober
3. Professional Staff Representative for Comm. on Committees: Susan Mangold

130 eligible voters participated in Senate election; 44 for the Committee on Committee election

B. Introduction of Acting Provost: Acting President Vargas introduced the new Acting Provost for the academic year, Dr. James Mackin. J. Mackin addressed the Senate. His administrative background includes serving as Provost at Bloomsburg, so he is familiar with PASSHE.

C. Presidential Search Update: D. Johnson

D. Johnson announced that according to the Office of Social Equity, all notifications regarding the search must come from the chair of the Presidential Search Committee.

D. Johnson announced that the elected faculty representative to the Presidential Search committee is J. Schlegel, with R. Schaeffer as alternate.

D. Appointment of Parliamentarian:

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D. Johnson has appointed R. Schaeffer to act as Senate Parliamentarian for this year.

E. Other:

1. Senate Elections: A Nominations Committee must be formed. Inform P. Reichert-Rex if willing to serve.

III. Approval of the Agenda

IV. Approval of the Minutes from May 1, 2014

P. Walsh Coates moved to approve the minutes from May 1, 2014; seconded by J. Ronan; motion approved

V. Old Business
None

VI. New Business
None

VII. President, Committee, Task Force Reports

A. Senate President's Report – D. Johnson

1. Campus Climate: D. Johnson announced a call for proposals for a PASSHE Summit, "Inclusive Excellence and International Education: Passport to Success through Innovation, Creativity, and Engagement," at Millersville, Nov. 12-14, 2014. Participation is encouraged.

2. The Senate website is being updated. Consult it for minutes, proposals, links to committee web pages, and so on. The Senate Office is 127 OM; open Wed. afternoons
Phone: (610) 683-4856; Email: senate@kutztown.edu; P. Reichert-Rex can also be reached in the Acting President's office

3. A reminder that all motions from the Senate floor must be put in writing to ensure accuracy.

4. D. Johnson congratulated G. Hill and the staff of the GLBTQ Resource Center for receiving a certificate of acknowledgment of their important work from President Obama.

5. Elections for Senate representation:

- a. The Center for the Enhancement of Teaching: A.M. Corder was elected
- b. Institutional Climate: L. Scappaticci was elected

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

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1. J. Schlegel announced that the Committee on Committees is now fully staffed.

2. A reminder that by-laws for each committee reporting to the Senate must be distributed at their first meetings.

Any changes to by-laws or membership must come through the Senate.

3. A reminder that the C on C is a liaison between Senate and its standing committees, and it exists to facilitate the functioning of those committees

D. Johnson added that it is important to update by-laws.

C. Student Government Board – J. Scoboria

1. J. Scoboria encouraged faculty to encourage attendance and participation in classes as an effective retention tool

2. J. Scoboria introduced Jonathan Quezada as a new student Senator; the third position will be filled by October.

D. Acting President Report – C. Vargas

1. C. Vargas stated that the quality of the student learning experience will drive all decisions for the coming year.

2. This year will also focus on enhancing student “soft skills” that are essential student and career success. These skills include critical thinking, effectively working with a team, effective communication and problem solving.

E. Veterans Center Update – T. Brown (See University Senate homepage for link to detailed presentation materials)

1. T. Brown presented information about The Veterans Center, which is located in the Student Union Building. It is charged to develop a university-wide supportive environment for all veterans, parents and spouses of veterans.

2. A number of important steps have already been implemented to enhance the KU experience for Veterans and their families and improve their ability to graduate in a timely manner.

3. Federal legislation on supporting Veteran success in higher education is coming into play; KU is already ahead on this.

4. T. Brown’s presentation highlighted the specific ways C. Vargas and the Center are coordinating support services, and initiatives that have already been undertaken. Numbers of students who are Veterans are increasing; increasing numbers are actively using services provided by or through the Center.

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F. Heart at KU – G. Hill

1. G. Hill of the Women’s Center presented information about safety and sexual and relationship violence at KU. She explained about the Healing Environment Advocate Response Team (HEART), which operates through the Berks Women in Crisis organization. Students are increasingly involved; effective experience for future careers.

2. Awareness of these issues has grown; the next step is to focus on educating the campus community. Faculty are encouraged to invite speakers to come to classes; also student clubs and organizations.

3. J. Lizza: asked how the new federal laws about reporting complaints of sexual and relationship violence will affect HEART’s work. G. Hill replied that it was possible that this would remove the confidentiality piece from HEART. J. Pena and B. Watrous stated that a policy is being worked on to create exemptions for HEART members, Health and Wellness providers; outcome is uncertain. Only Counselors are known to be exempt to preserve client confidentiality.

4. J. Lizza asked if Senate could write a letter in support of such exemptions.

5. J. Scoboria invited G. Hill to present to the Student Government Board, and asked if the SGB could also write a letter of support.

G. Career Development Center Update – K. Gardi (see University Senate homepage for link to detailed presentation materials)

1. K. Gardi presented information about a PASSHE shared career management system. It keeps data on student involvement with career services. Data on involvement with Career Services and their events can be provided by program as well as by advisees.

2. There are links to the Career Center on D2L; can be used to encourage student engagement.

H. Enrollment Management – K. Scranage (see University Senate homepage for link to detailed presentation materials)

1. K. Scranage presented current enrollment at KU, noting that this is prior to the “freeze date” of September 15.

2. Currently we have a 27% attrition rate – first year students who don’t return.

3. Rates of retention, attrition and persistence to the third year have all improved slightly.

4. Overall enrollments, pre-freeze date, are down 2.5 %; expected to rise to 3.7% by freeze date.

5. J. Silberman addressed the impact of lower enrollments on the budget. Based on the

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3.7% enrollment drop, the current budget deficit of 6 million will rise another 2.8 million dollars. The budget must be adjusted, but supporting student success remains the top priority.

6. D. Johnson noted that Retention would be a focus for the October Senate meeting.

VIII. As May Arise
None

IX. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted:
Lisa Norris
University Senate Secretary