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Senate Minutes

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KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY
Minutes of the University Senate

Room 223, McFarland Student Union Building
Thursday, September 3, 2009

M. Sanelli called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

Present: Len Barish, Javier Cevallos, Ed Christian, Kate Clair, Gail Craig for Kathleen Hartman, James Delle, William Donner, Lorri Engstrom, Sudarshan Fernando, Mitch Freed, Jo Cohen Hamilton, Gregory Hanson, Joshua Heller, Ted Hickman (Vice-President), Loriann Irving for JoAnn Mackesy, Joseph Jedwab for John Lizza, Mathias Le Bosse, Inmi Lee, Joe Lippincott, Keith Logan, Mark Mahosky, Susan Mangold, James McNiff, Marilyn Meder, George Muugi, Sylvia Pham, CJ Rhoads, John Riley, Trucilla Sabatino, Rennie Sacco, Maria Sanelli (President), Steve Schnell, Lisa Schonberger, Joo Tan, Heather Thomas, Carlos Vargas-Aburto, Patricia Walsh-Coates, Anke Walz (Secretary), and Carole Wells .

Absent: Andrew Arnold, Bobbie Berry, Nancy Butler, Arifeen Daneshyar, Dennis Dietrich, Will Jefferson, Andrea Kirshman, Charles Roth, Christopher Sacchi, and Barth Yeboah.

I. Announcements

President Cevallos would like to take this time to thank everyone that helped to make the move-in day a success.

President Cevallos reported that a State Budget has yet to be approved.

President Cevallos spoke on Opening Day about the Capital Plan that is in place. This plan will include the new design for Schaeffer Auditorium, the renovations of Lytle Hall, and the moving of the garage where it is now to the Facilities Building.

Provost Vargas reported that the latest U.S. News and World Report have Kutztown University listed as a Tier 3 school.

II. Approval of the Agenda

M. Sanelli asked for an addition to the agenda for today's meeting that would include a brief report on the progress of the General Education Task Force. A motion was made by J. Riley, seconded by K. Logan, which read:

That a request to add to the agenda under New Business a brief report of the progress of the General Education Task Force be considered.

Motion passed.

L. Barish moved, and then T. Hickman seconded, to approve the revised agenda to include the Gen Ed Task Force Report. Motion passed.

III. Approval of the Minutes

K. Logan moved, S. Schnell seconded, to approve the minutes from the April 30, 2009. Motion passed.

IV. President, Committee and Task Force Reports

A. Senate President's Report.

M. Sanelli reported that she attended the APSCUF Large Classroom committee meeting this month. This group has been discussing ways to modify faculty compensation related to teaching large amounts of students both in the Academic Forum and in other large classrooms. She announced that faculty members concerned with this issue should contact APSCUF.

M. Sanelli made comments related to recent academic changes made by the Provost Office. These changes were reported to Senate in the fall, but not voted on because they are mandates by PASSHE. These changes are based on the commonalities document reviewed a few years ago. If Senators would like to suggest changes to those academic policies that have recently been implemented, she suggested that a coalition of university senate presidents should bring that discussion to the Chancellor. She asked Senators with concerns about the recently implemented policies to communicate with her about their concerns.

B. Committee on Committees

i. Strategic Planning & Resource Committee Changes to Bylaws

T. Hickman reported that back in February, 2009 Senate approved a revised version of the SPRC Mission /Bylaws that amended the membership of the committee. The amended membership dropped a non-teaching faculty representative from the list of participants. At the April, 2009 SPRC meeting the committee amended the membership list to reflect 2 non-teaching faculty members. A motion was made by L. Barish, seconded by J. McNiff that read:

To amend the SPRC Mission Statement/Bylaws so that it reads that there are two non-teaching faculty members on this committee instead of one.

Motion Passed.

ii. Events Advisory Council

T. Hickman announced that Lori Kent has resigned as the College of VPA Representative on this committee due to the fact that she received a Fulbright Scholarship for the upcoming year. A motion was made by T. Hickman, seconded by J. Riley, which read:

That Lori Kent is replaced by Miles DeCoster to be the College of VPA representative on the Events Advisory Council for the upcoming academic year.

Motion passed.

C. Shared Governance Task Force Update

T. Hickman electronically distributed to Senate members the document, Final Recommendations on University Governance, Joint Senate/APSCUF-KU Governance Committee, that was approved by referendum in the fall of 1989. The Shared Governance Task Force will hold their next meeting on September 16th and their hopes is to have a report to be distributed at the next Senate Meeting in October.

D. Institutional Climate Task Force Update

M. Sanelli, Co-Chair, reported that this task force started to meet back in January 2009 to review interpersonal issues on our campus. The Institutional Climate Task Force gave its last report in April 2009. It was decided last spring that a baseline study was needed to be and because of the sensitivity of the issues involved, an outside consultant would be needed. Next week, a sub-committee of the task force will meet to evaluate the applicants.

V. Old Business

There was no old business at this time.

VI. New Business

A. General Education Task Force Update

J. Delle, Chair, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the progress of the General Education Task Force. The first phase of this task force was to come up with a process on how to approve a new general education model.

The second phase was the formation on who was to serve on this task force and this has been completed and the members have looked at 4 of our sister schools that have restructured their General Education Model within the last several years (Clarion, Millersville, Mansfield, and West Chester).

After looking over the samples of the sister schools models, our task force is looking to have a draft up on Profs Online for all to view by the middle of September. The new model would consist of four core areas consisting of a Core Curriculum, a Group Distribution Curriculum, a College Distribution Curriculum, and a Thematic Curriculum. After this phase, the new model has to be approved by the University Senate, APSCUF, and the University Curriculum Committee. The task force will make a suggestion by June 1, 2010, on our new model. The Gen Ed would then be implemented in the Fall 2012.

M. Sanelli would like to remind all Senators that if there is an item you would like on the next Senate Agenda, you need to email her two weeks before the meeting.

VII. Adjournment

L. Barish moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by W. Donner. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Signed:

Dr. Maria Sanelli, President

Dr. Anke Walz, Secretary