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Senate Minutes

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Kutztown University Kutztown, Pennsylvania
UNIVERSITY SENATE MINUTES
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March 2, 2017
ACADEMIC FORUM 103

Present: K. Bremer, M. Cardozo, A. Christman, K. Clair, J. Kremser (for A. M. Corder), C. DeMarco, S. Dewey, S. Doll-Myers, R. Flatley, A. Fu, J. Garcia, M. Gober, S. Tracy (for H. Hamlet), K. Hawkinson, K. Hudak, D. Immel, L. Irving, D.A. Johnson, D.B. Johnson, E. Johnson, M. Johnston, Y. Kim, D. Lea, L. Levine, J. Lizza, D. Mace, M. Maksy, P. McLoughlin, L. Norris, R. Perkins, V. Reidout, W. Rogers, J. Ronan, M. Scheuing, J. Schlegel, Y. Zhang (for C. Shim), R.L. Smith, P. Walsh-Coates (for T. Stahler), J. Van Wyk, A. Vogel, C. Walck, T. McNally (for T. Williams), T. Wong, A. Zayaitz

Absent: R. Courtney (for A. Arnold), D. Aruscavage, D. Beougher, J. Conahan, M. Gallagher, A. Morris, A. Pfeiler-Wunder, B. Sharkin

Guests: N. Blichar, C. Blocksidge, J. Green, J. Umberger, C. Wells

I. Call to Order

University Senate President J. Schlegel called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM.

II. Announcements – J. Schlegel

A. Honorary Degree:

The Council of Trustees (CoT) has approved Dr. S. Weidensaul to receive an Honorary Doctorate at May's Commencement Ceremony. Senate Exec also approved this degree at its meeting on Jan. 18, 2017. He graduated from Kutztown with a BFA in Art, and gained experience here in taxidermy. His passion for birds and raptors has led him to write over two dozen books on them, including a Peterson's Guide nominated for the Pulitzer Prize.

B. Greetings from the Council of Trustees: Dr. Charles Blocksidge

J. Schlegel: introduced Dr. Blocksidge, the new Chair of the CoT, noting his commitment to academic excellence. He is a 1965 graduate of Kutztown State; PhD from U. Pittsburgh; resides in Allegheny County.

C. Blocksidge: provided background information about his career credentials and history of service on numerous boards. He then informed Senate about a number of important matters pertaining to the structure, workings and responsibilities of the CoT.

1. He explained that CoT members are nominated to the Governor, who appoints them with the consent of the PA Senate. There are eleven Trustees, including one student, whom the Governor must approve.

2. KU's CoT works well together, with perspectives from both business and public sectors.

3. CoT meets monthly. CoT also supervises four committees: Academic, Financial, Diversity, and University Relations/Development; KU staff are involved on these.

4. The CoT approves initiatives (like the new agreement with Taiwan University), the annual budget, approves new programs, evaluates the President (report to the Chancellor), and considers student suspensions and/or expulsions.

5. Act 188, created with the PaSSHE, delineates the authority of the CoTs for all 14 schools. Act 188 can be found here: <http://www.passhe.edu/inside/legal/Pages/Act-188.aspx>

6. Regarding budget and the BoG call for a study of the viability of the PASSHE:

a. KU CoT is committed to raising standards even more to increase retention rates. Better performing H.S. graduates far more likely to stay, and to graduate in 4 years. Over time enrollment will also increase. Everything flows from academic excellence.

b. The budget model is increasingly difficult to manage, with low state support and limits on tuition increases, as well as monies going to state related and community colleges. Of these three groups, only PASSHE schools have budgetary restrictions on tuition and are far less able to respond quickly to

changing conditions.

- c. PASSHE sustainability with this budget model is being assessed by a consulting firm.
- d. Chancellor Brogan testified to the Legislature that it must assess PASSHE in the context of State appropriations to ALL state supported colleges/universities and their nimbler budget models.
- e. Although the Governor has increased budget for PASSHE in last two years, even if this year's request is granted, PASSHE will still face a budget shortfall.
- f. The good news: KU is in a strong position.
- e. Also, the assessment may well suggest a better budgetary model to support PASSHE schools.
- J. Schlegel: Advocacy Day in April in Harrisburg. Contact CoT members with ideas.
- C. Blocksidge: Better retention/enrollments will also help matters.
- J. Schlegel: Dr. Hilton to present Strategic Enrollment Management Plan at Senate in April.
- C. Blocksidge: We all have a common purpose. Faculty are on the front lines of retention.

At every CoT meeting, a student is invited to share their KU experience. Wonderful stories about the quality of education and life at KU.

Questions:

- E. Johnson: Are funds being increased or restored?
- C. Blocksidge: PASSHE had very deep cuts; still less than budget of 10 years ago, although KU has managed its finances well.
- E. Johnson: Lower enrollments were anticipated at least 10 years ago. Are reductions greater than anticipated?
- C. Blocksidge: Anticipated due to demographics; has hunch KU's declines a bit less than anticipated.
- L. Norris: Statistical study showed that KU had priced itself out of the socio-economic group it has drawn from most, historically. More appropriations from the State would make KU more affordable for that lower income group. An item for Advocacy Day.
- C. Blocksidge: Yet, some PASSHE schools are growing.
- J. Schlegel thanked C. Blocksidge for coming and sharing his perspective. C. Blocksidge thanked everyone for the good work they do; Senate responded with applause.

III. Approval of Agenda – J. Schlegel

Any objection to the Agenda? None; Agenda approved by unanimous consent.

IV. Approval of the Minutes – J. Schlegel

Any substantive corrections to the Feb. 2, 2017 minutes? None; minutes approved.

V. Unfinished Business - J. Schlegel

None.

VI. New Business

A. Amend the Senate Constitution: J. Schlegel

Rationale has been provided. E. Johnson moved; S. Dewey seconded the Motion to change Article Two, Section E, Number 10 from "Senate officers may serve only two consecutive terms in the same position" to "The President and Vice-President may serve only two consecutive terms in the same position. The Secretary may serve unlimited consecutive terms in this position."

Discussion? None. Change to the Constitution requires a 2/3 majority. Call for a vote; motion to amend the Constitution approved. None opposed; no abstentions.

B. ACA-XXX Academic Honesty - Graduate Students: C. Wells

The proposed policy and its rationale have been distributed. The motion is to approve the new Academic Honesty Policy for Graduate Students.

Discussion? None. Motion approved. None opposed; no abstentions.

C. Honorary Degree Bylaws: J. Ronan

Committee on Committees (CoC) moves to pass the revised Honorary Degree Committee Bylaws.

Discussion? None. Motion approved. None opposed; no abstentions.

VII. President, Committee Task Force Reports

A. Senate President's Report – J. Schlege

1. J. Schlegel introduced N. Blichar, Chair, Student Trustee Search Committee. K. Kinney is the faculty representative.

2. Gen Ed Re-Design: L. Norris

L. Norris, Senate liaison to GER Committee, reported. Detailed information can be found here: <https://www.kutztown.edu/about-ku/administration/university-senate/ad-hoc-task-forces-and-links.htm>

a. M. Eicholtz is working with a Student Advisory Board for their input.

b. Monthly meeting of entire GER Comm. on March 6 will discuss recommendations of small work groups.

c. Student Forum: Key input: flexibility and accessibility: for transfers, sufficient courses for timely graduation; and lower cost (books and other materials).

d. Faculty Forums highlights:

1. Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs): Still too many. Consider adapting Middle States SLOs.

2. Enthusiasm for First Year Experience (FYE): specific theme or content along with essentials to succeed at the college level

3. Several Models considered: Defined Core; FYE, Exploratory, Captstone

4. Some study beyond the introductory level should be required.

5. Incorporate agreed upon cognitive abilities ("competencies") through coursework.

6. Most appeared to agree that no one course or degree requirement should be exclusive domain of one department.

e. Liason's job is to report to Senate and to the GER with feedback. Senators please solicit input from constituents and relay to L. Norris.

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

1. Committee on Committee's (CoC) Willingness to Serve has closed with 124 responding, a record high. At the April Senate meeting, CoC will present a slate of appointments for Senate approval.

C. University President's Report – K. Hawkinson

1. The CoT's monthly minutes are public information available on the KU website. They offer comprehensive updates on important matters. Minutes are available here:

<https://www.kutztown.edu/about-ku/administration/governance/council-of-trustees/minutes.htm>

2. Unexpected events early in the semester necessitated more Announcements from the President than usual. These announcements reassure and remind all at KU of its fundamental mission and values to ensure and protect the rights of all members of the KU community. Additionally, news about a thorough examination of the PASSHE system has made many nervous, calling for an Announcement to ensure that KU's budget is as sound as possible.

3. Strategic Planning: K. Hawkinson is working with SPRC; reviewing and acting on initiatives.

4. Athletics: Much to celebrate; Men's Basketball is in the Playoffs after finishing first in the Conference for the second straight year. Women's Field Hockey is first in Division Two for highest Student-Athlete GPA (and had a fantastic season this Fall).

Discussion:

D.B. Johnson: KU's Electronic Media program has been asked to cover the post-season basketball for all Pennsylvania; great reflection on KU.

D. B. Johnson: re: Gen Ed and class size: as a budgetary concern, don't sacrifice quality by raising class sizes.

K. Hawkinson: large classes can be as successful as small but must be right for the mission of the class. Last year, class sizes of Gen Ed MAT and ENG 23 were reduced. Highest priorities are timely graduations and addressing obstacles for transfer students.

D. Student Government Board (SGB) Report: – J. Van Wyck for M. Gallagher

1. SGB will host a Major Day for non-majors. Faculty, Deans, CASA and Career Services will provide information.
2. SGB will host an event promoting mental health awareness, providing resources with fun activities.
3. SGB is working with Dr. Hawkinson to extend shuttle hours to include evening classes.
4. Ten KU students will attend Advocacy Day in Harrisburg, including SGB President M. Gallagher.
 - V. Reidout: Major Day is March 23. CASA services, especially for Time Management, will be available.
 - J. Schlegel: SGB President M. Gallagher and Maria Sunick attended the Washington, DC program for women Student Government leaders. They were the only two from PA; great for KU.

E. Institutional Climate (ICC) Report - T. Bernstein; C. Weiler

Since no one from ICC was present to report, J. Schlegel asked K. Hawkinson if he would update Senate about ICC's meeting with him.

K. Hawkinson: ICC survey [overdue] needs to be normed. N. Snow from Institutional Research will work with ICC to identify possible surveys and tailor to KU. Updates will be reported to Senate.

J. Schlegel: Status of the Ombuds position?

K. Hawkinson: In development; working to ensure that work duties do not overlap with those of others.

N. Blichar: Bystander Intervention is a key topic; training programs are in development.

T. Wong: noted the importance of a nimble response to fast developing climate issues, such as the recent postings by a white nationalist group.

F. KU Rebranding - J. Green/J. Umberger

Highlights are below. The presentation is available here:

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

J. Green: for recruitment and retention, Ologie has been hired to develop a Brand to better tell KU's story.

1. Currently in Creative phase; will be ready for external communities for Fall 2017 recruitment.

2. A Brand is a total experience built on clear positioning and telling a great story. Created focus groups of students, faculty and staff to distill character of KU. Answers to these questions create the story to tell: What do we do? How do we do it: Why does it matter?

3. Findings: KU is humble, supportive and friendly. Aspire to pair these with confident, inspired and determined, respectively.

4. Campaign will launch internally first, throughout Spring/Summer 2017.

J. Umberger: Important to find new ways to deliver message: short, energetic, enthusiastic

J. Green: Accepted Students Days: Excitement is critical to get students to want to commit to KU.

Discussion:

D. Mace: Why not launch externally now?

J. Umberger: Best to do so internally first; get community familiar with it.

D. Mace: These are great; what of short shelf life?

J. Green: Changes happen at ever faster pace; media sources and style. Will need to change quickly.

J. Umberger: 3-4 years maximum; will weave in updates and refreshers.

VIII. As May Arise

None.

IX. Adjournment:

With no further business, meeting adjourned at 5:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

L. Norris

Secretary, University Senate