

Faculty Senate Minutes
September 1, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. All departments were in attendance except Accounting & Finance, Athletics, and Communications & Theatre.

I. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the June 9, 2015 meeting of the Faculty Senate were approved as written with two abstentions.

II. Proposed Courses and Programs

CHANGE TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE

(1) MUSI 368: International Music. Proposal to add W and D labels was approved without dissent.

(2) MUSI 369: West African Music and Dance. Proposal to add D label was approved without dissent.

CHANGE TO GRADUATE COURSE

(3) EMGT 617: Emergency Management: Crisis, Emergency, and Risk Communication. Proposal to update title, course description, and learning outcomes was approved with one dissenting vote.

UNDERGRADUATE POLICY

A Börger-Greco/Hutchens motion to postpone consideration of the revision to Internship Programs was approved without dissent.

III. Report of the Faculty Senate Chairperson

Faculty Senate Chair Börger-Greco reminded chairs of Faculty Senate committees that regular attendance at Senate meetings is necessary to provide critical insights for discussion, take information back to committees, report on work, and get feedback on proposals. She also invited college curriculum committee chairs to attend.

Dr. Börger-Greco distributed a summary of how undergraduate curriculum proposals move through review and approval. She highlighted that curriculum chairs rather than proposers will now move original signature pages on to the next review body. Hard copies are still needed until the electronic system that can track approvals is in place. Senators and the second departmental curriculum representative were reminded to review the weekly notification e-mail and report proposals beginning review at the next Senate meeting.

Discussion highlighted that approval of DL format for new courses is not yet addressed. Dr. Börger-Greco also requested to hear from any faculty willing to participate in the Special Committee to consider curriculum review bodies and representation within the new colleges.

IV. Report of the Student Senate

Student Senate President Christian Copeland shared his mission for Student Senate to solve problems on campus through professionalism, diversity, and effective communication.

V. Report of the Graduate Student Association

None

VI. Report of the Administrative Officers

President

Dr. Anderson commented on his address delivered at convocation and thanked Senate for its role in maintaining academic programming on campus. He noted that budget issues are still waiting for action by state legislature, ongoing work by the Strategic Advisory Council, and the second year of our tuition pilot.

Provost

Dr. Prabhu reported on changes in student course selection when paying tuition by credit and new dorms filled to capacity. Discussion was held regarding students having difficulty enrolling in courses required to graduate. Dr. Prabhu stressed commitment to meeting academic needs and that students having related problems should contact college deans to discuss options.

VII. Curricular Notices

None

VIII. Reports of the Faculty Senate Standing Committees

None

IX. Reports of the Faculty Senate Special Committees

None

X. Faculty Emeriti

An A. Miller/Mowrey motion that Dr. Robert K. Wismer be granted the honorary title of Professor of Chemistry Emeritus was approved without dissent.

XI. Online Programs Update

Ms. Lauren Edgell, Director of Online Programs, reported on the staff, marketing, and applications process for online programs. It was noted that students admitted to online programs can also enroll in traditional courses. A request was made for some improved visibility and alignment of links to these programs alongside the traditional application links on the MU website. Ms. Edgell noted that faculty may opt to participate in related workshops and support consulting for online teaching. She also explained the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) being considered by PA legislators which allows program marketing in most states, noting that the current focus is states in our region. Strategic planning for online programs includes faculty development and support, positive student experiences, program development, and general education offerings for online liberal arts programs. It was noted that the IT Help Desk is hiring new staff to provide more support hours during times relevant for online offerings and an advisory committee will provide insights on the situation.

XII. Elections

Previous nominations were distributed and the floor opened for additional nominations. A Mowrey/A. Miller motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous vote for each unopposed candidate for the third regular election was approved without dissent.

Previous nominations for persons to serve at-large for this upcoming year were distributed and the floor opened for additional nominations. An A. Miller/ Börger-Greco motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous vote for each unopposed candidate for the at-large election was approved without dissent.

XIII. Other/New Business

Senator Joe Sciarretta introduced the Well Student Check program and encouraged faculty and advisors to use the online link to request student support staff or campus services to check on students who may be struggling with academics or personal issues.

Meeting was adjourned after elections (5:53 p.m.)

Respectfully Submitted,

Aimee L. Miller
Faculty Senate Secretary

Action Summary:

The minutes of the June 9, 2015 meeting of the Faculty Senate were approved as written with two abstentions.

(1) MUSI 368: