

## Faculty Senate Minutes, February 9, 2021

### Attendance

Senators Present: Wendy Bird, Derek Lan, Carol Martin, Candace Garrod, Janet Tarase, Benjamin Rogers, Heather Duncan, Amy Buckingham (for Sally Stablein), Chelsea Campbell, Ellie Camann, Erika Iverson, Leah Rogin-Roper

Visitors: Michele Haney, Kevin Kelley, Joseph McInerney

### Approval of February 2 Minutes

- Janet Tarase motioned; Chelsea Campbell seconded – approved.

### Police Advisory Board Creation/Update: Michele Haney

- As a separate issue, Dr. Haney announced that faculty sabbaticals will be allowed (likely effective Fall semester).
- Advisory Board – Dr. Haney wants to put together a constituent-based advisory board with a tentative timeline of end of spring semester.
  - And she welcomes suggestions on the membership and purview of the board.
- They are currently looking at best practices for colleges with similar advisory boards in place.
- Dr. Haney wants the advisory board to be the eyes and ears of the community.
- Questions from Senate:
  - Would this include both internal and external groups (with respect to RRCC)?
    - Dr. Haney wants it to begin as an internal board.
  - What would the board look like: advisory board vs. accountability board? What does the accountability piece look like?
    - Dr. Haney – in terms of personnel issues, these should come to her.
      - For example: regarding concerns about any police officers.

- On questions or comments from the campus community – there is a survey going out to students about safety issues.
  - Does a survey like this need to go to faculty and staff as well?
    - Dr. Haney – some of this is on the climate survey. Another survey with additional questions can be sent out if necessary, as well.
  - On the new police officer position that has been listed – can this ad go out after more conversation about whether we need another police officer position or whether we can hire someone for crisis intervention or a related area?
    - Dr. Haney – the school has lost three officers and needs to fill a police officer position now. Having sufficient coverage for both campuses is her major concern. But with that said, Dr. Haney is open to both positions – and she welcomes a conversation on if we should assign someone to work with the police. department (it doesn't have to be an either/or situation).
- And as a closing remark: Dr. Haney would like for leadership to meet with senate again in the future.
- **Action Item – senators should check with their constituents to ask what their expectations for the advisory board are and what concerns they may have on it.**

### Confirmation of Online Conventions

- Senators turning their cameras on if possible, using the hand raise function, Wendy making sure that all senators have the opportunity to speak via roll call process, guests have 10 minutes to present agenda items with requested action, 20 minutes for Q&A and then, depending on the nature of the issue, either voting or gathering input from constituencies for a vote next meeting.
- Wendy – these are guidelines only and we want to leave flexibility for senators, so no need for an official vote.

## Discussion of the Faculty Survey (from end of last semester)

- Wendy asked whether the level of specificity in the survey was helpful: would we rather leave it open-ended and ask what people are concerned about?
- A question was raised for new senators: what precipitated the survey?
  - Senate spent a lot of time discussing issues last semester, with one major cluster of questions being related to issues of race and BLM, and the decision was made to draft a survey for all faculty.
- A question was raised on whether we should make the survey more general than it currently is, but still including the questions about the BLM statement?
  - That there are issues of race on campus, but perhaps questions that are too general would keep these issues hidden?
- A question was raised about survey-fatigue: should we ask our constituents instead of sending out a faculty-wide survey?
  - Further questions were raised relating to this: would some faculty members feel uncomfortable discussing these issues with their senators? Would it be better to keep the anonymity of the survey?
- Another question was related to the vote of no confidence question on the survey: should this be addressed separately?
  - Some senators mentioned that this is a major step that shouldn't be taken lightly.
  - Some senators also mentioned that the moment the vote of no confidence was brought up last semester, it derailed discussion.
- A suggestion was made to create a taskforce to look over the survey and suggest changes:
  - Taskforce members: Amy Buckingham, Kevin Kelley, Janet Tarase.

## For Next Meeting – Items Senate Didn't Have A Chance to Go Over

- **Action Item: for all of the below items – please ask your constituents for their thoughts (and Wendy can give you more details if needed)**
  - Challenges with ISS structure: cross-trained pool vs. each dean having their designated admin. How is this working for faculty?

- Challenges with Success Week/14-week online schedule vs. 15-week face to face courses?
  - Increase adjunct pay/remove 12-credit limit to increase the ability for RRCC to be competitive?
- During our last meeting, Wendy had raised the issue of the acceptance of D-grades and the 10-year credit expiration, but Academic Standards and Program Chairs will address this rather than making it a senate issue.