

MUW
FACULTY SENATE

October 14, 2016
Cromwell 240

Members Present: Lee Crouse, Steven McCorkle, Ashley Chisolm, Cathy Smith, Youn Mi Lee, Michael Calvery, Jonathan Cumberland for Ian Childers, Pamela Thomson for Tammy Bolton, Michelle Harmon, Jonathon Hooks, Melissa Smith, Chrystal Hodges, Bobby Fugitt, Mary Helen Hawkins, Valentin Bogdan, and Ross Whitwam for Nicole Welch.

President Crouse called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

President Crouse welcomed Dr. Borsig to the meeting and turned the floor over to him. Dr. Borsig spoke to the senators about several topics, including:

1. Diversity/Inclusion and Hiring

Dr. Borsig outlined the different hiring processes: staff hiring versus faculty hiring. Faculty hiring is more difficult because of the processes in play. Faculty members are the individuals who run the search committees, and Dr. Borsig stated that he wants to gather ideas from faculty about the groundwork. Dr. Borsig wants to establish a better understanding of faculty hiring. He wants to have firsthand knowledge and wants to speak with search committee chairs. There is discussion for rebooting the hiring process. Dr. Borsig spoke to faculty about wanting to look into the process to ensure that the university is doing everything in the hiring processes to get good outcomes.

2. Assessment for administrative organizations

The university's accreditor requires the university to look at the administrative structure (not Colleges). Carla Lowery will chair the new committee that focuses on assess the university's administrative structure. The committee will be named in the coming weeks. The driving factor behind this is the changing student demographic. Currently, 550 students live on campus and there are over 860 students that are totally online. We want to focus on student experience and continue supporting all students.

3. Accountability

SACS e-mail has recently been under fire from the Department of Education. There was mention that there is currently no national accreditor for teacher education in the U.S.

Regional accreditors put out an email and are allowed to share student clearinghouse data. There is talk about trying to determine a way to articulate the 'swirl', or the total number of institutions a student may attend.

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SACS is now focused on graduation rates and loan default rates. Dr. Borsig mentioned there is currently 7.5% on loan default and for the 2009 cohort, the graduation rate is just under 50% for first-time full time freshmen.

4. Finance/Budget

The legislature had budget hearing starting in August. There was no IHL specific hearing and the panels were together. The legislature asked a plethora of questions including:

- Per pupil spending for MS students
- Percentage of full time undergrad freshman out-of-state that pay full tuition
- Attrition rate
- Graduation rate

For fiscal year 2017, there was a \$56 million dollar accounting error and state revenue shortfalls. We don't know about the revenue collections moving forward but the governor says he does not expect to cut again (but it could happen). Dr. Borsig asked campus to look for ways to make up to a 2% cut but pointed out that no one has been asked to cut anything so far.

Dr. Borsig stated that if any additional cuts come, the university will manage them and he is more worried about FY 18 because of the unknown appropriations and the state revenue for the remainder of the year.

There has been a 5% tuition increase approved for FY 18 but where it is spent will depend on the previous factors.

October minutes:

Jonathon Hooks made a motion to approve the September meeting minutes. Melissa Smith seconded the motion. The September minutes were approved.

****Quorum was lost after the approval of the minutes. (Everything discussed afterward will still require an email vote for approval.)

Unfinished Business:

No unfinished business to discuss.

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New Business:

Funding Committee

There was discussion about creating a committee to be responsible for review of the Fund A and Fund B requests submitted to Faculty Senate. Melissa Smith, Valentin Bogdan and Jonathon Hooks stated they would be willing to serve on that committee. (President Crouse will submit the discussion to the senators via email for a vote.)

President Crouse informed the senators that he wishes to purchase a printer for use in the Faculty Senate Executive Committee Office.

Other:

Suggested 2016-2017 Meeting Dates: September 9th, October 14th, November 11th, December 10th (if necessary), February 10th, March 10th, April 21st, May 12th (if necessary)

President Crouse adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.