

MUW FACULTY SENATE  
January 14, 2022  
Zoom Meeting

In attendance: Kristy Alpe, Kelly Bennett, Jonathon Hooks, Ian Childers, Mary Helen Hawkins, Shyam Heda, Susan Hurley, Holly Krogh, Hunter Manasco, Chad Murphy, Shonda Phelon, Melissa Smith, Terry Todd, Lestonio Yarbrough

Absent: Nichole Bonaventure-Larson, Shana Lenoir, Kathy Newman, Amy Pardo

1. President Manasco called the meeting to order at 12:18 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes from November
  - a. Motion to accept by Ian. Seconded by Shyam. Motion carried.
3. Committee Reports
  - a. Administrative Council Report – Hunter
    - i. President Miller is requesting more money from the legislature for salary raises to address compression and inversion.
    - ii. No changes to COVID precautions; the Campus Renewal Taskforce is rotating on new members on to increase diversity and address fatigue.
  - b. Meeting with the President – Hunter
    - i. With respect to salary raises, the W's promotion and tenure raises are substantially smaller than similar raises at other institutions. (The W's initial salaries are lower than other universities, but those differences are less striking.)
    - ii. Enrollment numbers are down across schools including community colleges. The W's fall applications are up 30% from the previous fall's.
    - iii. IHL has \$200 million in money for COVID recovery of which the W should get \$15.4 million. Some will be used to renovate Fant for nursing.
  - c. Academic Council – No report.
  - d. PIE Report – Holly
    - i. No meeting.
4. Unfinished Business
  - a. Bookstore: In an email, Dr. Tollison indicated that the bookstore was not appropriately staffed last fall. That and COVID-related shipping problems caused problems for students obtaining books for the fall semester. Questions were asked about the timeline for upcoming renewal or any change to the bookstore contract.
  - b. Mission: In an email, Carla Lowery indicated that faculty (including Holly Krogh who is the representative for Faculty Senate) are on PIE Council and were involved in the process of updating the mission statement. In our discussion, it was noted that the mission updates were primarily focused on modifications that resulted in a briefer version that no longer included specific names of colleges on campus. Questions remain about faculty oversight versus input.
5. New Business
  - a. Fund A and Faculty Foundation Funds
    - i. Fund A – 12 applications have been approved for a total of \$3318; \$2682 remains available with a possible addition of \$2000 later in the year (for travel and presentation at conferences)
    - ii. Fund B – four applications have been approved for a total of \$2097; \$1903 remains available (for improvement of classroom teaching)

b. Policy reviews

PS 3546: Ian made a motion to approve; Melissa seconded; motion carried.

PS 1309: Lestonio made a motion to approve; Terry seconded; motion carried.

PS 3546: Melissa made a motion to approve; Ian seconded; motion carried.

PS 3546: Discussion of “exigent circumstances” and the procedures when a faculty member self-nominates for emeritus status versus when they are nominated by a department chair, dean, or the president of Faculty Senate. In particular, who writes the letter of nomination should be clear. Ian made a motion to approve with recommended changes; Melissa seconded; motion carried.

- c. Name change discussion: The past history of name change efforts was discussed. Concerns over the issues of student recruitment and inclusivity were mentioned. If Faculty Senate is going to take action (e.g., write a letter on the issue), then more information (especially data on student opinion) is needed. It was thought that the addition of sports and the pandemic have both occurred since the last data were collected. The Student Government Association’s executive board will be invited to the next meeting of Faculty Senate to gauge their interest in the issue. Senators with any information on previous efforts or data collection will let Hunter know what they are investigating and what they find out.

6. Other

- a. State Faculty Senates are looking into recently filed House Bill 437 “Teaching Racial and Universal Equality (TRUE) Act” and its potential implications for faculty. Hunter will send more information by email as this may be added to the next meeting’s agenda.

Closing Comments/Adjourn – President Manasco adjourned the meeting at 1:25 p.m.

Next meeting: February 11<sup>th</sup>

Suggested 2021-2022 Remaining Meeting Dates: March 11<sup>th</sup> April 8<sup>th</sup> (for installation of new Senators and election of executive committee)