

Faculty Senate Minutes

Friday, March 1, 2013

University Center 2217/2218

PRESENT: Peter Cashel-Cordo, Ethel Elkins, Brandon Field, Adrian Gentle, Mary Hallock Morris, Garret Merriam, Paul Parkison (Chair), Daria Sevastianova, Kristalyn Shefveland, Rex Strange, Marilyn Ostendorf, Frank Ward, and Steven Williams; *Ex Officio members*, Ronald Rochon (Provost), Shelly Blunt (Interim Assistant Provost).

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Steve Williams made a motion to approve the amended minutes of the February 22, 2013 meeting. Peter Cashel-Cordo seconded. The minutes were approved with two abstentions.

WELCOME: Kindra Strupp, the new Assistant Vice President for Marketing and Communications, introduced herself to the audience.

UPDATE FROM THE PROVOST'S OFFICE:

- Chairs and Program Directors Retreat: Dr. Ronald Rochon reported that the agenda for this fall's retreat is currently being compiled.
- Academic Dishonesty: Rochon noted that Interim Assistant Provost Shelly Blunt and Dean of Students Angela Batista are working to develop university-wide practices for dealing with academic dishonesty.
- Budget Hearings: The budget presentations for academic and student affairs will be held on Monday, March 4. Rochon noted that the President's top budget priority was the need for new faculty.

REPORT FROM THE FACULTY SENATE CHAIR: Faculty Senate Chair Paul Parkison stated that he spent the week working on the Senate's budget request.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Budget Priorities from Academic Affairs and Student Affairs: Marcia Kiessling, Associate Provost for Student Affairs, Shelly Blunt, Interim Assistant Provost, and Mohammed Khayum, Dean of the College of Business, presented the budget priorities for Academic Affairs and Student Affairs. Kiessling listed three priorities for Student Affairs: the President's Diversity and Inclusion Fund to promote the daily value of diversity in the intellectual life on campus; immersion programs; and expanding the parking lot at the Broadway Complex. Blunt discussed five priorities: digital imaging software and unified search-discovery software for the Rice Library; purchasing and implementing DegreeWorks to replace the current DARS system; an increase in the Rice Library's base budget; 15 graduate assistantships to be offered through Graduate Studies; and an increase in program funds for the Center for Academic Creativity. Khayum discussed a collaborative effort that included the four academic colleges and Outreach & Engagement. Their collaborative request will be for an "Experts in Residence" program.
- Distance Education Priority Requests: Megan Linos, Assistant Provost for Distance Learning, discussed several priorities regarding distance education: developing a faculty learning community about distance education; developing an online teaching innovation showcase award; certifying faculty in Quality Matters, developing a faculty technology loaner program, creating a teaching commons space, working with online student readiness, creating a course (GENS 199, Surviving and Thriving in Online Learning), and a MOOC initiative.

- Faculty Senate Budget Hearing Presentation: Paul Parkison stated that the Faculty Senate does not have a line item in the budget. He noted that the Faculty Senate will be included in the Campus Community presentation along with the Administrative Senate and the Staff Council. Parkison outlined the senate's five priority requests: salary increases; a funding pool to address issues of equity and salary compression; an increase in faculty lines; an increase in travel funds with an option to "bank" funds; and an endorsement of the library's request for an increase in its base materials budget. The philosophy behind the requests is that we need to advocate for the faculty who are currently at USI. The Senate's budget presentation is scheduled for March 11, 2013.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Nominations for At-Large Senate and Standing Committees: Parkison issued a call for at-large nominations for the at-large senate and standing committee elections. Nominations will be left open through March 18 and the ballot will be approved at the March 22nd meeting. Each college will need to generate a ballot for college-level elections. Parkison also noted that the Core Curriculum Committee has two at-large positions open. Two nominations were received during the meeting:
 - **Julie Evey**: At-Large Faculty Senator
 - **Eric McCloud**: At-Large Member of the Grievance Committee
- New Program Review Process: Parkison announced that the New Program Review Process will be considered at a future Senate meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT: The senate adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: March 22, 2013, from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. in University Center 206.

Submitted:

Mary Hallock Morris
Secretary, Faculty Senate