



Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2020

I. Call to order

Larry Smith called to order the regular meeting of the Snow College Faculty Senate at 3:30 p.m. on April 8, 2020. The Senate met via Zoom video conference.

II. Roll Call

The following persons were present: Jonathan Bodrero, Erick Faatz, Matthew Gowans, Larry Smith, Milinda Weeks, Nick Marsing, Weston Jamison, Jacob Thomas, Renee Faatz, Jay Olsen, Adam Burningham, Chad Price, Steve Hood, Ari Jaimison, Jed Rasmussen, Melanie Jenkins

III. Opening and Informational Items

A. Welcome from Larry.

B. Larry reported that the Sabbatical Policy and the Intellectual Property were approved by the College Council for 30-day review, but Larry could not immediately distribute them via email attachment. The President's Office asked for a shutdown of general lists for now. Many of the lists are not very "clean" and go to many types of email addresses. They are trying to come up with a better system of list communication. A very small number of people are allowed access to some lists. Larry asked that interested parties be advised ahead of time. Marci is preparing a list/chart of those who have access to which list(s).

C. Utah Council of Faculty Senate Leaders (UCFSL) meeting report (Monday, March 30, 2020).

1. Pass/Fail options were discussed. Snow is joining this. There will be drawbacks in some cases and students need to use care in choosing the option.

2. Student course evaluations are needed, but with allowances for the situation Spring 2020.

3. There will be an automatic 1-year extension for advancement option at some schools.

4. Academic integrity regarding assessment was discussed. Options like Respondus or open-book testing were mentioned as possibilities.

D. The Sabbatical Policy and the Intellectual Property were approved by the College Council for 30-day review. Send comments to Larry Smith.

E. Larry and Jonathan carried out a yearly parliamentary review as indicated in Senate bylaws. Erick will continue with a positive review.

IV. Minutes from March 11, 2020 approved with minor changes: motion made by Jay, second by Chad, and unanimous vote of approval.

V. Good News/SEM

A. Jay commented that over Spring Break business ambassadors contacted all potential students who have expressed an interest in a business major. Over 400 student-to-student personal contacts were made.

B. Wes mentioned that Nate Caplin has stepped down as chair. Dr. David Graham is the new chair of the Social Science department.

VI. Committee Reports

A. A & T Committee: Matt reported that they met yesterday for the last regular meeting of the academic year. They have been working through a few bugs, but the new review process is working well.

B. Curriculum Committee: No report.

C. Faculty Development Action Committee: Jacob mentioned that they have not met but they continue to review UQI requests. Thanks to Chase and the TTC for their help with the online trainings.

D. Professional Track Committee: Chad reported that they have not met. There is no more information about the professional track document. Larry asked if the Senate needs to be involved directly in the continuing review process? If ready, the document would have at least a thirty-day review through the College Council process. It was recommended that Steve talk with Bob Gary about some verbiage issues in the document. Steve might be able to meet with him in Richfield tomorrow.

E. Global Engagement Committee: Wes reported that they had a meeting scheduled for April 20 but it was canceled. They hope to schedule one more meeting before the end of the school year. The Covid-19 situation has unsettled some plans. Hopefully budgets will hold moving forward.

F. Honors Committee: Jonathan mentioned that the committee has not met, but that they are reviewing program applications, and their scholarship deadline has been extended. They are working to prepare the new committee chairs Jacob Thomas and Kellyanne Ure.

G. Library Committee: Milinda said that they have not met.

H. Service Learning Committee: Nick mentioned that all is going well. They are reviewing projects as best they can.

I. Teaching and Technology Committee: Jay reported that the last meeting was March 10, 2020. Canvas training was the main focus of the meeting.

J. Faculty Association: Renee recognized how hard everyone is working in this transitional situation and has communicated with administration about the possibility of extending budget deadlines. Let Renee know if there are other issues that she should bring up with administrators.

K. Adjunct Information: Adam reported he had communicated with three or four adjuncts about the need for better office/meeting spaces for interacting with students. Workload with the Covid-19 situation is difficult to balance with other commitments. Larry mentioned that some full-time faculty members don't have private office spaces for meeting with students which is compounded for adjuncts. We need to address this as soon as possible.

L. Student Information: No report.

M. Ad Hoc/Other:

1. No reports.

VII. Senate Business

A. College Council At-Large Selection Process Report

1. Erick reported that Kyle Rowley won the run-off election for a three-year term replacement for Mike Brenchley on the College Council.
2. The next step is to hold an election for the one-year term completion of Nate Caplin's at-large College Council position. Two of the three nominees have agreed to run in the election. Amy Noblett will help Erick with a Doodle Poll election. Full-time faculty members will have at least seven days to vote.

B. Senate President and Vice President Election Process

1. Senate bylaws sections 2.5 and 3.1 outline the selection process and terms for the Senate president and vice president indicating that the president should be selected by secret ballot in April preceding his or her tenure. The details of nomination and vice president selection are left to the discretion of the Senate. Traditionally, the vice president is the nominee who receives the second highest number of votes. Considering the Covid-19 situation, the voting will probably be through email.

2. Send nominations (self-nominations allowed) to Erick by the end of the day April 14, 2020. April 15, 2020 Larry, Jonathan and Erick will evaluate the number of nominees and decide to continue with an election, or reevaluate the nomination process.

3. There was a discussion about whether the vice president from a current year should automatically serve as president the following year as senates at some other institutions do. It would take an amendment to the bylaws to codify this.

C. Senate Bylaws Review

1. Section 4.6.1 of the Senate bylaws outline the process for amending the bylaws including a written submission of proposed changes from at least two persons one being a senator. Bylaws revisions can be made in a regular Senate meeting with two thirds approval of all senators.

2. There is a proposal that the adjunct Senate representative be a voting member of the Senate. There can be a discussion today then sponsors can draft an amendment proposal for further discussion and possible approval in the April 22, 2020 meeting.

a. Wes asked to hear from Adam Burningham and Ari Jaimison for adjunct perspectives. Adam has ten plus years experience as a dedicated adjunct for Snow College and has worked part-time in other areas of education. He reported that there are 130 plus adjuncts working for Snow and a wide range of involvement. It is important for an adjunct to speak for other adjuncts and with a vote be truly involved in the Senate. Ari Jaimison spoke about a large amount of unseen work by adjuncts. They would feel more included and supported with solid representation along with faculty.

b. Some objections that had been raised were discussed. One division possibly gaining a voting block did not seem to be an issue for current senators. The point was made that theoretically adjuncts are already represented by division senators. Senators are nominated and chosen by division members. How would this work for an adjunct representative? Is a selection process possible in which adjuncts choose their representative for the Senate? If not a direct selection process, adjuncts could nominate a small number of nominees from whom the Senate would choose the representative. Snow would be different than any other institution in Utah if the adjunct representative had a vote. Some departments have many more adjuncts than others. Down the road is there a possibility of having an adjunct association like the Faculty

Association? Probably so if collective bargaining is avoided. A possible issue might arise if the adjunct representative were in the position of casting a deciding vote on a contentious issue.

c. Wes and Adam agreed to send written amendments to Erick for inclusion with the agenda Monday, April 20, 2020.

3. The Senate bylaws indicate that divisions need to elect new senate representatives by January 20, so that teaching schedules can be adjusted to the regular Senate meeting times. This year (2019-2020), the first draft of the Fall 2020 course schedule was asked for by the end of December or first part of January, before the January 20 deadline in the Senate bylaws. Do the bylaws need to be amended to require divisions to elect Senate representatives earlier than January 20? Steve Hood will look into the possibility of the first week of February for the first draft of Fall schedule and get back to the Senate.

4. Larry received an email from a librarian at UVU who was doing research about various aspects of how faculty senates are set up in Utah institutions of higher education. One question was about documentation for the existence of senates at the institutions. As Larry and Erick researched this, they found that the Faculty Senate at Snow College is not included in any official documents nor organizational charts that they could find. Should the Faculty Senate have a more clearly defined place in the administrative model at Snow? There have been movements to trim administrative units at Snow rather than add to them. The Senate may be a policy creation organization rather than part of an official organization. Does the Senate belong under the Provost? Steve will look into models at other institutions.

D. In light of some events to stifle speech on campuses across the nation, it is probably important to have a Senate sponsored freedom of speech policy or resolution. There are sections of the book Coddling of the American Mind that highlight cases of campus organizations sponsoring campus speakers and through various forms of student actions not allowing to do presentations. Wes, Jacob and Jed will do some research and draft a statement for consideration in the April 22, 2020 Senate meeting.

E. Committee sponsorship has come up periodically as an issue for Senate consideration. Issues related to a sustainability committee and an Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC) are two committees at the forefront. The recent email lists conversation caused the role of the ITAC committee to come up again. It is unclear what the role of some committees should be and where they belong in the Snow organizational model. The Faculty Senate or the College Council as sponsor seems to give a committee a voice. The College Council in recent times has not been willing to sponsor committees. Steve will check into

whether this has changed with the new administration. It was mentioned that many independent committees function well as long as they have a clearly defined role and responsibility. They need to engage in an institutional conversation in a collaborative spirit to survive. Larry will look into the possibility of the ITAC committee being chaired by someone from Carson Howell's office.

Adjournment

Larry adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 22, 2020.

Minutes submitted by Erick Faatz
Revised 4/22/2020
Final minutes approved 4/22/2020