

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2024

1:30-3:00pm (UC 251)

Senators: Dr. Vikram Bhaduria (absent), Dr. Brian Billings (absent), Dr. Jaime Cantrell, Dr. Joy Cooper (Secretary/Parliamentarian) (absent), Dr. LuzMary Rincon, Dr. Sara Lawrence, Dr. Brian Matthews, Dr. Sheila Moore, Dr. Craig M Nakashian (President), Dr. James Nguyen, Dr. Godpower Okereke, Dr. Sebastian Schmidl, Dr. Kevin Williams (Vice-President)(absent), Dr. Faycal Znidi

Invited Guests: Dr. Ross Alexander (President), Dr. Melinda Arnold (Provost), Mitch Powell (Registrar), Dr. Lisa Myers, Dr. Dan Mintun, Dr. Kim Murray, Dr. Joseph Burzynski

- I. Call to Order.....Dr. Craig M Nakashian
 - a. The meeting was called to order by Senate President, Dr. Nakashian at 1:35 pm.
- II. President’s Report.....Dr. Ross Alexander
 - a. Beginning the political engagement process and forming our strategy for our next funding cycle at the federal, state, and local level. It is going well.
 - b. Thank you for your proactive contributions to 5% enrollment increase. Continues to look good for Fall 2024.
 - c. There will be 2 groundbreaking this semester. In late April, probably April 25, they will break ground on the CBET building. The Athletics Complex will break ground this semester. Fundraising is going extremely well, and we will have an announcement about a leading corporate sponsor. The system will provide about 45% of the complex and the rest will be through philanthropy.
 - d. In the upcoming academic year (24-25), we are adding competitive dance, cheer, beach volleyball and E sports. E sports arena and lounge construction is in progress on the UC fourth floor.
 - e. In the following academic year (25-26), we will be adding men’s and women’s lacrosse, men’s and women’s golf, and bowling. We will use Morgan field, so we already have the facility and those are large roster sports. That can be 175 to 200 athletes who would otherwise be choosing A&M. This is an important part of the enrollment growth strategy.
 - f. There are 3 Dean searches now. (CBET, Nursing, and Honors) Look forward to getting these completed and the roles filled.
- III. Provost and VPAA’s Report.....Dr. Melinda Arnold
 - a. Thank staff running from place to place and for their help on spring enrollment. Best enrollment ever. We are up 32% in applications, and it is only February 9 so hopefully good things to come.
 - b. CBET Dean search is entering its final phase. There will be 3 candidates on campus from February 19 – 21. CV’s and schedules will be sent to everyone. We hope there will be a concerted effort to meet the candidates and fill out the surveys.
 - c. The Honors Dean search is up and running with Dr. Sharma running the search. Don’t have a timeline but search is aggressive. The College of Nursing and Health and Human Services Dean job description has been altered some. We will now consider people in Nursing and Social Work. The new job description is in the process of being posted and the search committee will now meet on March 18th.

Zoom interviews will be held at the end of March and have people on campus in mid-April.

- d. Beginning this cycle, tenure and promotion base pay will be increased thanks to Sikorsky and a very thorough evaluation and assessment. Assistant to Associate: from \$3,500 to \$5,000. Associate to Full: from \$5,000 to \$6,500. Notes will be sent to all faculty shortly.
 - e. Eclipse is coming April 8. We will be offering alternative learning opportunities for students on campus that day. Craig is involved if you have any questions. Will be reaching out from the academic side to see who wants to volunteer with discipline related activities. There are 1000 moon pies in Jill's office for the occasion.
- IV. Approval of Minutes from 12/08/2023.....Dr. Craig M Nakashian
- a. Minutes from the previous faculty senate meeting held on 12/08/2023, were reviewed. Dr. Lawrence motioned to approve the minutes, and Dr. Okereke seconded the motion. Discussion with Dr. Okereke, curriculum committee bylaws, says no update. Update was submitted to President Nakashian. Minutes now approved unanimously.
- V. President of Faculty Senate Report.....Dr. Craig M Nakashian
- a. Academic calendar flexibility conversations regarding adding more eight week courses and introducing 3 week courses across many terms. Mitch will go into this further.
 - b. Talks of revising IS1100, offering more Spring sections. Administration wants more flexibility with this offering.
 - c. BS in Leadership, Lisa Meyers will elaborate.
 - d. Potential posthumous emeritus status for Dr. Allard. Should be on the agenda for the Board of Regents this month.
- VI. Committee Reports & Business Items
- a. Curriculum Committee..... Dr. Godpower Okereke
 - i. BS in Biomedical Engineering
 - ii. BBA in Supply Chain at RELLIS
 - iii. MBA in Finance (STEM)
 - b. Core Curriculum Assessment.....Dr. Faycal Znidi
 - c. Educational Technology.....Dr. Kevin Williams
 - d. Academic Rules & Procedures.....Dr. Craig M Nakashian
 - i. Revision to UR.12.06.99.H0 post-tenure review
 - ii. Revision to UR 12.01.01.H1 Tenure & Promotion
 - iii. Revision to UP 12.99.01.H1.01 Faculty Development Leave
 - iv. Change to Faculty Senate constitution to clarify that only those eligible to serve on faculty senate are eligible to vote in faculty senate elections.
 - v. Suggestion to Senate to develop 2-year, non-sequential terms for faculty senate officers.
 - e. Academic Standards.....Dr. Sheila Moore
 - f. Faculty Welfare.....Dr. Joy Cooper
 - g. FRED.....Dr. Jaime Cantrell
 - i. Jiao proposal approval
 - h. Budget Committee.....Dr. James Nguyen

VII. Old Business

- a. Faculty Handbook.....Dr. Sara Lawrence
 - i. About a month behind. Will pick back up week of 19th.
- b. QEP.....Dr. Daniel Mintun
 - i. Digital Literacy. QED Design committee is still being formed. Need faculty from the new nursing, kinesiology, social work, and CBET. Needs chair. Representation is CASE heavy and want full representation.
- c. OTAFA.....Drs. Murray and Burzynski
 - i. Two successful Lunch & Learns so far this semester. Overview of last semester's events.
 - ii. Faculty celebration event this spring.
 - iii. Potential collaborations in the works.
- d. Preservation of committee agendas/minutes
 - i. Considered approved with no adjustments submitted.
 - ii. You must be able to serve on senate in order to vote on senate. Clarified within Faculty Senate Constitution.
 - iii. Recommendation made by Rules and Regulations Committee: Because Faculty Senate positions have been decoupled, consider putting in language regarding terms and conditions of positions.

VIII. New Business

- a. College program realignments.....Dr. Faycal Znidi
 - i. Proposal to move physics and mathematics to CASE from CBET.
 - ii. Ad hoc committee moved by Dr. Godpower Okereke, Dr. Joy Cooper seconds. Unanimous vote yes.
 - iii. The committee still needs to be formed.
- b. New School of Professional Education and Community Engagement...Dr. Lisa Myers
 - i. Creation of School of Professional Development and Community Engagement. Would be made-up of existing programs: BAAS (soon to be BS in Leadership), MSIS, ITED, Leadership Studies. They would be merged with EECD.
- c. Election of new faculty senate executive committee and new committee chairs (where necessary)
 - i. Drs. Craig Nakashian, Joy Cooper, Kevin Williams, and Vikram Bhadauria will be stepping down due to their department chair positions.
 - ii. Drs. Laura Sikes, Kathryn Hartshorn, Yusun Jung, Selena Jefferies are new Senators.
 - iii. First time non tenure tracked have served.
 - iv. Executive committee election: Dr. Sara Lawrence nominated but not accepted. President: Dr. Jaime Cantrell, Vice President: Dr. Faycal Znidi, Secretary: Dr. LuzMary Rincon (all with no opposing vote)
 - v. Committee chairs election; Ed Tech: tbd, Rules & Procedures: Dr. Sara Lawrence, Faculty Welfare: Dr. Brian Billings (nominated while absent), Core Curriculum: Dr. LuzMary Rincon
 - vi. Will serve for 3 months to finish the semester until next election.
- d. Academic Calendar Flexibility.....Mitch Powell

- i. Proposal to move the spring semester start date from Tuesday, January 21, 2025 to Monday, January 13, 2025 (Monday prior to Martin Luther King Jr. Day). This would guarantee that we can initiate a three-week summer mini session in conjunction with Summer.
- ii. Proposal to move the fall semester start date from Monday, August 25, 2025 to Monday, August 18, 2025.
- iii. If both semester start dates were moved then we would be in line with RELLIS.

IX. Next regular meeting of Faculty Senate- March 8th, 1:30 (UC 251 and Zoom)

X. Meeting adjourned by new President Dr. Jaime Cantrell at 2:43 pm.