

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

March 8th, 2024
1:30-3:00pm (UC 251)

Senators: Dr. Brian Billings, Dr. Jaime Cantrell (President) Dr. Katheryn Hartshorn, Selena Jeffries, Dr. Yusin Jung, Dr. Sara Lawrence, Dr. Brian Matthews, Dr. Sheila Moore, Dr. James Nguyen, Dr. Godpower Okereke, Dr. LuzMary Rincon (Secretary/Parliamentarian), Dr. Sebastian Schmidl, Dr. Laura Sykes, Dr. Faycal Znidi (Vice-President)

Invited Guests: Dr. Ross Alexander (President), Dr. Melinda Arnold (Provost), Dr. Angela Sikorski (Assistant Provost), Dean Tim Arnold

- I. Call to Order.....Dr. Jaime Cantrell
 - a. The meeting was called to order by Senate President, Dr. Jaime Cantrell at 1:35 pm.
- II. President’s Report Dr. Ross Alexander
 - a. Dr. Alexander was not present so notes were provided to Dr. Cantrell, read at 1:35 pm. The University is progressing with plans to expand its housing options for Fall, including adding approximately 90 beds in BLV and utilizing two-bedroom modular homes (40 beds) as a planned residential development across the parking lot from the BASS. The overall strategy is to both increase housing capacity as we grow, as well as provide students with greater housing options.
 - b. The 5% enrollment increase and record university enrollment for a spring term this Spring 2024 semester portends for a healthy enrolment increase for the Fall 2024 semester. Applications, admittances, and enrolments are all trending positively. The recent workforce partnerships we have forged are producing adult student enrollments (online) and our new scholarships are producing FTIC and transfer enrollments for Fall—all good news.
 - c. Both the RRCU Athletics Complex and Business, Engineering, and Technology Building projects are meeting planned construction timelines. Both are important to the future of the campus. In addition, before Fall, we will add permanent seating to Morgan Field, transform the John F. Moss Library, and open an eSports arena, in addition to other campus projects.
 - d. I am pleased with the progress that faculty members, deans, and Provost Arnold are making on our approximately 20 new academic degree programs that we will launch in the next 1-3 years. Each is being developed in direct collaboration with industry partners to ensure the workforce-readiness of our graduates.
 - e. Now that the search for the Dean of Business, Engineering, and Technology is completed and Dr. Sharma is on-board, we look forward to the conclusion of the searches for the Dean of the new College of Nursing, Health, and Human Services, as well as the new Dean of the Honors College.
 - f. We will continue to forge and announce several corporate and community partnerships in the coming weeks.
- III. Provost and VPAA’s Report Dr. Melinda Arnold
 - a. Provost provided her report at 1:38 pm
 - b.
- IV. Approval of Minutes from 2/08/2024 Dr. Jaime Cantrell
 - i. Delay of minutes. To be emailed for approval at a later date.
- V. President of Faculty Senate Report Dr. Jaime Cantrell
 - a. 2:09 pm. Thanking of newly placed Faculty Senate Senators and Committee Chairs.
 - b. Preservation of committee agendas and minutes. Cantrell offers to do the work if

information is provided by each committee.

- c. Faculty Senate bylaws, constitutional structure changes to align with college changes coming July 15? We will be going from 9 for CASE and 5 for CBET to adding Honors and Nursing College. Give more time for the colleges to settle was proposed by Dr. Sarah Lawrence. Ad Hoc committee recommended by Dr. Godpower Okereke. Drs. LuzMary Rincon, Godpower Okereke, and Faycal Znidi volunteer to serve but not chair. Chair to be determined.

VI. Committee Reports & Business Items

- a. Curriculum Committee.....Dr. Godpower Okereke
 - i. Doctor of Physical Therapy
 - ii. 2:22 pm. Approved. Have 1 faculty but three more to hire.
- b. Core Curriculum Assessment.....Dr. LuzMary Rincon
 - i. 2:36 pm.
 - ii. Academic Affairs Council. Things are broken and need to be fixed but the focus as now is the student. New Academic Affairs council has been charted: Dr. Melinda Arnold, Chair; Dr. Sushil Sharma, Dr. Angela Sikorski, Dr. James Worthen, Dr. Alytrice Brown, Dr. LuzMary Rincon, Tim Arnold, Dr. Venus Lillis. Issues such as room capacity, room technology, deadlines for DegreeWorks. International Students do not have a central office anymore. They do not feel they are supposed to go to previous office. Laptop usage and returns. More guidance for International Students needed.
- c. Educational Technology.....Dr. Sebastian Schmidl
- d. Academic Rules & Procedures.....Dr. Sara Lawrence
 - i. 2:23 pm. Revision to 12.01.01.H1, Tenure and Promotion, has been submitted to System for approval. ·
 - ii. 12.99.01.H0.01, Faculty Development Leave, is published. Rule updated.
 - iii. 12.06.99.H0, Post Tenure Review – Change recommendations from Dr. Sikorski. Still in process. Could be an issue if no numerical value is applied. System language cannot be changed but a statement may be added to encourage reviews even if not mandatory for pre tenure.
 - iv. 12.03.99.H1, Faculty Academic Workload and Reporting. Guidance is not provided for summer workloads. Looking at other university guidelines and department chairs for guidance ideas. Consistent issue of pay being delivered. Pay issues across University.
- e. Academic Standards.....Dr. Sheila Moore
 - i. Nothing to report.
- f. Faculty Welfare..... Dr. Brian Billings
 - i. 2:44 pm. Regents Nominations. Three-page letter. Full professors only. Minimum of five years served. Ad Hoc committee will be struck after nominations received. Has to be a former regent on the committee. June 1 is the deadline for nominations.
- g. FRED.....Dr. Jaime Cantrell
 - i. Nothing to report.
- h. Budget Committee.....Dr. James Nguyen
 - i. Nothing to report.

VII. Old Business

- a. College program realignments Dr. Faycal Znidi
 - i. Covered earlier. No updates.
- b. Academic Calendar Flexibility.....Mitch Powell
 - i. No updates.

VIII. New Business

- a. Library and Learning Center..... Dean Tim Arnold
 - i. Library collection requests can be made. Staff is going through books and organizing collections.
 - b. Updates from Academic Affairs/QEPDr. Angela Sikorski
 - i. 1:48 pm. Not in attendance. Dr. Cantrell is informing by reading email.
 - ii. QEP meeting previous week update. In process of forming QEP development committee.
 - c. Summer Course ModalitiesDr. Jing Chen
 - i. 1:50 pm. Denied Summer online modalities. How to solve this issue?
Kinesiology can not offer online modalities and this is what students want. Can not find answers where information has been requested. Seemingly more information is needed from department chair. Pandemic exceptions have expired.
- IX. Next regular meeting of Faculty Senate- **April 12th, 1:30 (UC 251 and Zoom)**

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.