

# TECHNOLOGY FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Tuesday, April 2, 2019  
Workman 101 4:00 p.m.

## Minutes

### 1. Call to order and approval of minutes

Chair Tom Engler called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm with a call for approval of the March 5, 2019 minutes. Dr. Brian Borchers moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Dr. Anwar Hossain. Motion passed unanimously. Friendly amendment was made to change BMS credits from 127 to 120.

### 2. Reports of Senate Standing Committees

Action

#### a. Retention Committee Report – *Brian Borchers*

Dr. Borchers stated that the Retention Committee has been recently discussing advising and the coordination of moving this to the Registrar's office. Dr. Wells sent out an email that addressed questions that the committee had.

New academic rules. Dr. Borchers stated that we had statewide general education requirements, statewide course renumbering, and HED rules regarding Advanced Placement. The Gen Ed requirements and the new course numbers are being delayed a year. The AP courses still need to be addressed. The Registrar's office is trying to get clarification from HED regarding if this is a rule or a suggestion. Dr. Steve Simpson stated that these are in effect this fall according to Bridgette Noonan from HED.

Information technology. We still do not have Degree Works, but it is Academic Affairs top priority in terms of software. Discussion was held to reconsider having a hybrid committee to address our advising system.

Dr. Michelle Creech-Eakman moved to form this committee that would make recommendations on improving our advising systems, seconded by Dr. Sally Pias. Motion passed with several nays.

Intrusive Advising is a widely used "best practice" to help intervene with students before they fail classes. The committee feels that we can do better and this is something that we should be working on.

Assessment. Academic advising is not addressed in the assessment report. Luz Barreras stated that the OSL has been doing assessment reports. They were late this year as they were waiting on IRB.

#### b. Honorary Degree & Awards Committee – *Bhaskar Majumdar*

Dr. Majumdar stated that there are no nominations for the Honorary Degree.

He discussed the Langmuir, Founders, and Brown award. April 26 will be the last day for nominations for the Langmuir Award. The Founders and the Brown award will be nominated the day of our Faculty Senate meeting in May.

**c. Academic Freedom & Tenure Committee – *Mike Heagy***

Dr. Heagy discussed two items from the Academic Freedom & Tenure Committee. This body approved the Tenure & Promotion Policy but it needed to be approved by legal counsel. There were several editorial comments, with clarifications.

- (1) II. Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor; Yes, service only at NMT.
- (2) II E. Final tenure review August 15 of the same year the final review is initiated.
- (3) Appendix A. Length of probationary period; 7 years maximum. Normally the tenure decision would not be made before the fifth year.
- (4) Appendix C. Clarification of faculty probationary appraisal form. Friendly amendment made to change “ideally” to “normally” for the May 1 deadline.
- (5) Appendix G. VAPA changed to VPAA throughout.

Dr. Heagy moved to accept these changes with friendly amendments. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Wells reminded faculty that the Regents also want an interim appeal process policy to be brought forward at the same time as the T&P Policy.

Dr. Heagy discussed the Promotion to Emeritus Status guidelines. Most every other college or university has something similar. It was brought forward in 2014 and did not pass, so the committee reviewed it and made some new edits. This guideline discusses the perks of becoming Emeriti. Dr. Heagy pointed out that nominations from the department should include the purpose of nomination and any initial considerations regarding office, lab, and faculty space and usage, as well as documenting the department votes. This guideline also discussed who is eligible and loss of privileges or status for Emeriti.

Dr. Heagy moved to accept this. Motion passed unanimously.

**d. Student Discipline Committee –*Stewart Thompson***

Dr. Thompson discussed several proposed changes to the Student Discipline Committee. The Student Discipline Committee will now be called the Student Conduct Committee. The committee proposes to add four staff members (one being appointed by each campus vice president). The Committee will assign a Committee Chair. At the moment, there are no tenured faculty, but they are welcome. The hearing panels will be based on who is the respondent and will consist of seven adjudicators; maintaining a quorum of five. Lastly, the committee needs to have annual training.

Discussion was held regarding that in the past, half of the hearing panel had to be faculty members and this should continue. (The committee currently is proposing that at least one faculty member be on this panel). Suggestion was made that at least four faculty members should be on the hearing committee with issues involving academic honesty or research integrity problems.

Dr. Stone moved to refer this back to committee, seconded by Dr. Borchers. Motion passed unanimously.

### **3. Reports of Senate Special Committees**

**Action**

#### **a. Calendar Committee Report – *Bill Stone***

Dr. Stone discussed the academic calendar. He stated that it is one week shorter during the spring semester than it is in the fall semester. At this point, the committee is not recommending the full week off for Thanksgiving. The committee needs to look into if they can keep the food service for those in the dorms open during this break.

Dr. Stone moved to approve the schedule. Motion passed with one nay.

#### **b. Evaluations Committee Report – *Michelle Creech-Eakman/Peter Mozley***

Dr. Mozley discussed the Teaching Evaluation Policies and Procedure.

Dr. Mozley discussed Item 4. He stated that in exceptional circumstances we may need to identify a student. An example may be if there are threats of violence.

Dr. Mozley proposed that we change this sentence to read “Instructors shall not have access to student identities even after final grades have been posted, nor will department chairs. However, in exceptional circumstances, such as a threat of violence, a student’s identity may be revealed.”

Dr. Mozley moved to accept this policy. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Creech-Eakman discussed the course evaluation proposed questions. She stated that many hours were spent on these questions. The only old question that was kept is question number one. The other seven questions are what the

committee is proposing that we do in the future. These will be the standard questions that every class gets with three optional additional comments.

The first question was discussed in length. It reads “Think about what the instructor has done to plan and deliver this course. Please rate the overall quality of instruction in this course.” Dr. Taffeta Elliott stated that as a committee they wanted to put context in there because quality can be interpreted in a variety of ways by students. This was trying to be an accessible way of expressing this.

Friendly amendment was made and seconded to delete the first sentence and change it to read “Please rate the overall quality of course and instruction.” The amendment failed to pass. The committee stated that double-barreled questions should not be used. This question really needs to focus on instruction.

After further discussion, and realization that the words in blue font will not be shown to the students, a vote was called.

Dr. Creech-Eakman moved to accept these questions and start using them in the summer. Motion passed with one nay.

#### **4. Council of Chairs Report – *Doug Wells***

**Action**

Dr. Engler suggested a single motion for all the curriculum changes, everyone agreed.

- a. **CLASS**
- b. **Education**
- c. **Mathematics**
- d. **Chemistry:** Elaine DeBrine Howell noted to add 151 & 152.
- e. **Electrical Engineering**
- f. **Business & Technology Management**

Motion was moved and passed unanimously.

#### **5. Graduate Council Report – *Lorie Liebrock***

**Action**

- a. **Electrical Engineering**
- b. **Mathematics**
- c. **Computer Science**
- d. **CLASS Certificate**
- e. **Mechanical Engineering**
- f. **Engineering Management**
- g. **Educational Certificate & MST Changes**
- h. **Graduate Policies and Catalog Changes**

Motion was moved and passed unanimously.

## 6. Unfinished Business

### 6. New Business

#### a. New Student Advising Process – Samantha Nelson

**Info**

Samantha discussed new student advising updates. APINs for summer and fall were just sent out. Advisor assignments for the new incoming students have been put it as we go along. The Registrar's office is reaching out to all the new students with a welcome email and confirming their major.

The date for incoming students to register is June 3. There will be summer orientation sessions and there will be a registration lab set up for students to register.

### 7. Announcements

**Info**

#### a. Teaching options for graduating students through the ALP – *Megha Khandelwal*

Megha Khandelwal stated that the ALP is a teacher training program and they are requesting help in recruiting students. We need to inspire our students to go into teaching fields. A flyer was sent out with all the requirements. She encouraged faculty to talk to their graduating seniors.

#### b. GSA Symposium – *Kyle Stark*

The annual GSA symposium is this Thursday with ten different speakers. Kyle asked faculty to encourage students to come out. It will be held in the Fidel Ballroom C from 1pm – 6pm.

#### c. Regents Faculty Conference Committee - *Michelle Creech-Eakman*

Dr. Creech-Eakman stated that the committee sent out a survey, which 25% of faculty answered. The committee is going through the SWOT analysis that Dr. Engler will take it to the Regents. The majority of faculty voted to have this survey sent out yearly.

#### d. SRS – *David Cox*

David Cox announced that the Student Research Symposium is April 10 and 11. There are still spots for the oral presentation dinner.

### 8. Adjournment

By unanimous decision, the faculty senate adjourned at 5:35 pm.