

Minutes

Faculty Senate Monthly Meeting

January 28, 2025

Senators Present: Robert K. Perkins, Shaun Anderson, Charles H. Ford, Stephen Magu, Felisa Smith, Aylin Marz, Kamel Alboaouh, Proshot Kalam, Carl Bonner, Audrey Douglas-Cooke, Jocelyn Heath, and Claude Turner.

Others Present: Tyson King-Meadows, Colita Fairfax, Kimberly Hutson, Cathy M. Jackson, Bernadette Holmes, Batrina Martin, Stephanie Howard, Michael Parker, and Michele Rozga.

- I. Robert K. Perkins, President of the Faculty Senate, invited everyone present to sign in. He then asked for approval of the distributed Agenda. Audrey Douglas-Cooke made the motion to approve, and Felisa Smith seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.
- II. Perkins then asked those Senators present to read the distributed Minutes from November 19, 2024. He asked for corrections. Shaun Anderson noted that, in Section VII of the Minutes, the Provost had agreed to coordinate with the Senate in reference to future surveys. Audrey Douglas-Cooke made a motion to approve the Minutes with that one correction, and Jocelyn Heath seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.
- III. Perkins tabled the Handbook Revisions temporarily because of the absences of both the Handbook Committee Chair and the Provost. He went on to discuss problems that Departments were having with the new digital evaluation instrument. Colita Fairfax and Aylin Marz confirmed that the documents for the portfolio were unable to be attached – this was ironically the same reason why we need a new instrument in the first place.
- IV. Perkins reported that the administration has finally identified Faculty Senate office space in the Library, 3031-3032.
- V. Perkins noted that the Faculty Emeritus Selection process is finally moving again with the relevant Committee meeting to identify criteria and candidates.

- VI. There has been no movement on sabbaticals, even though the Senate's Taskforce had submitted its detailed report more than two years ago.
- VII. Perkins then turned to New Business. He led a discussion of serious issues of competence, compliance, and transparency with Accounts Payable, Information Technology, and Thompson Hospitality. Faculty members are still not getting paid on time for travel reimbursements. Tickets for technological assistance are not being processed, and the prices of Thompson Hospitality have increased dramatically while the quality of the food has gone down noticeably.
- VIII. Several Senators noted that there was no real faculty input or feedback in putting together the latest syllabus template which seemed to be a grab-bag of legal and pedagogical jargon that was overly long and verbose. Bernadette Holmes discerned that it was more fitting for a public secondary school than an aspiring research university. The Senators present saw the imposition of this deadening template as a serious violation of shared governance.
- IX. Carl Bonner then noted that the students would not read such a long document, and that they needed a separate primer in protocol instead.
- X. The Provost then gave a summary of the latest revisions for the Faculty Handbook, including the latest proposed timeline. A motion was made by Charles Ford and seconded by Aylin Marz to approve this very latest rendition, but the President noted that a quorum of Senators was no longer present. Accordingly, he instructed the Secretary and Assistant Secretary to help with putting together an electronic vote in the upcoming days.
- XI. Then, Michael Parker, the Chair of Elections and Nominations, asked everyone to state their eligibility for election or re-election in their Departments, asking that Departments conduct new elections for Faculty Senator(s) by March 1. The Secretary and Assistant Secretary were tasked in finding out each Senator's status and eligibility.
- XII. Colita Fairfax, State Representative, noted the progress of legislation in the General Assembly to place elected faculty and staff representatives on Boards of Visitors.
- XIII. The memorial for the late Carol Pretlow has been designated for February 10, 1-2 pm.

- XIV. Bernadette Homes and Audrey Douglas-Cooke then discussed the reasons for faculty burnout and a diminishing of morale and suggested initiatives to address faculty health and wellness.
- XV. The meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm.