

Minutes from the Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty Senate Meeting held on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 from 12.00 pm to 12.55 pm in Hodges Hall 155.

In attendance:

Dean Stacia Haynie

Associate Dean Rebecca Caire

Wilfred Major, President-Interdisciplinary Studies

Chris Barrett, Acting as proxy for Michael Bibler-English, Phil Maciak-English/Film Media Arts

Dorothy McCaughey, English

Carolyn Ware, English

Steve Andes, History

Kodi Roberts, History

Charles Isbell, Philosophy & Religious Studies

Kent Matthewson, Geology and Anthropology

Carmela Mattza, Secretary-Foriegn Languages and Literatures

Agenda

1. Open and introductions
2. Approval of minutes (September 16, 2014; March 10, 2015: emailed on March 11, 2015).
3. Updating HSS Faculty Senate Website
4. HSS policies for internships
5. Grade inflation
6. The role of student evaluations in reviewing faculty performance.
7. HSS policy for office hours
8. Day and Time for final meeting for Spring 2015
9. Admissions proposal
10. H & SS P & T committee appointments
11. New business
12. Adjourn

The Meeting

1. Wilfred Major started the meeting at 12.02 and welcomed and asked everyone to introduce him or herself before presenting Dean Haynie and Assistant Dean Rebecca Caire.
2. The president started to discuss the items in the meeting agenda. He first submitted for approval of the Senate the minutes of September 16, 2014 and March 10, 2015. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. The president passed on to the Senate Associate Dean Blanchard's concern on the need to update the HSS Faculty Senate website. Apparently it was last updated was in 2009.
4. In the last meeting, Professors Helen Regis and Steve Andes volunteered to work on a proposal for a HSS policies for internship that could help to standardize the criteria to recognize such experience with credits. Professor Andes told the Senate that they are still working on it.
5. When the president addressed the grade inflation item as well as the role of student evaluations in reviewing faculty performance, Dr. Kent Matthewson suggested the Senate address those two items together and professor Kodi Roberts volunteered to research the two topics and report to the Senate in the Fall. Professor Carolyn Ware volunteered to work with professor Roberts on it.
6. Professor Matthewson also suggested the Senate and the two professors who volunteered to work on these issues to contact faculty who were involved before in these items even if they are now emeriti faculty, such as professor Crumbley. Finally Professor Matthewson proposed them to get informed on the guidelines that about this issue AAUP might have penned before.
7. The president announced that there was a need to discuss HSS policy for office hours. Associate Dean Malcolm Richardson mentioned that HSS is seeing student appeals that pointed out the lack of the professor availability for consultation and guidance as the main reason for failure in the course.
8. The president informed the Senate that there was a need for a third meeting during the semester in order to fulfill the bylaws of the senate. This third and last meeting of the semester will take place during final exams week. The president agreed to inform on the day, time and place for the meeting by e-mail.
9. In the last meeting, Dean Haynie addressed the College Senate faculty to communicate her expectations to find in the Senate the assistance and help needed to find a way to get a better retention of students. The Dean expressed her desire to have a proposal from the College faculty in which HSS (through the team effort of college advisers, supplemental instruction sessions and the Career Center) can have a more direct involvement in students' success by offering mentoring in their freshman year and not only after students are officially enrolled in the College. Dean Haynie and Assistant Dean Caire assured the faculty senate of the viability of such program and the benefits that it would bring to students and HSS. Professor Steve Andes and the president Wilfred Majors worked together on the proposal-- The new language for the admission to HSS was sent ahead of the meeting and with the agenda. The proposal was

presented to the Faculty Senate for endorsement and was unanimously supported by all the members present. The proposal should be voted on the HSS Faculty meeting to take place on April 28th 2015.

Dean Haynie also announced that on April 28th, after the HSS Faculty meeting, there would be a reception and ceremony to celebrate faculty awards and retirements.

After the presentation and discussion of the new admission language, Dean Haynie and assistant dean Caire excused themselves for having to leave the meeting to attend another one.

10. The president recognized the delay on the formation of the steering committee that needs to interview the candidates to occupy the two open positions in the HSS Promotion and Tenure Committee, which consists of six members, two of whom rotate off every year. It was also expressed that one of the candidates must come from Social Sciences and the other from Humanities. The members of the steering committee are professors Chris Barret, Kent Matthewson and Carmela Mattza. The president added that the committee should be joined by either professor Michelle Zerba or Mark Wagner (as immediate past-president). The president suggested the members of the faculty senate identify and recommend possible candidates for the H&SS P & T committee.

The meeting ended at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmela Mattza