Faculty Senate Minutes: October 19, 2020

Attendance:

Senators: Jeffrey Yunek, Randy Stuart, Lei Li, Chris Sharpe, James Davis, Jennifer Dickey, Miachael Van Dyke, Sanjuana Rodriguez, William Griffiths, Rebecca Hill, Daniel Derreira, Cristen Dutcher, Stephen Collins, Mary Beth Maguire, James Gambrell, Peter St. Pierre, Heather Pincock, Daniel Rogers, James Wright, Paul McDaniel, Ann Mills, Hassan Pournaghshband, Joanne Lee, M. Todd Harper, Humayun Zafar, Irene McClatchey, Justin Pettigrew, Darina Lepadatu, Walter Thain, Jillian Ford, Abhra Roy, Douglas Moodie, David Buckman, Snebal Shirke, Diana Gregory, Giovanni Loreto, Laurie Tis, Austin Brown, Md. F. Hossain

Others: Pamela Whitten, Kat Schwaig, Ron Matson, Anissa Vega, Xiao Huang, Nihal Khote, Michelle Head, Ronald Briggs

President’s Report – Dr. Pamela Whitten, President

1. Dr. Whitten thanked everyone for helping to create a safe and healthy environment on campus. She noted that the cases that the university has had often occurred because of off-campus events, such as student parties, etc. She cautioned everyone not to let their guard down, but to remain vigilant.
2. Dr. Whitten thanked the staff for many of the leadership roles that they have taken off-campus, such as the distribution of PPE to KSU’s surrounding community. She encouraged attendees to please say thank you.
3. Spring Semester Planning: Currently the schedule for Spring Semester remains the same with a start date of January 11 start date and a spring break. However, the university will make adjustments as necessary depending upon what arises as the semester approaches.
4. Graduation: There will be no December graduation ceremony; however, the university is scheduling graduations for May 2021. It is the President’s hope that missed graduations will be made up, quite possibly during the May graduations already scheduled.

Provost’s Report – Dr. Kat Schwaig, Provost

1. Dr. Scwhaig thanked KSU’s front line workers, especially cleaning and dining staff, for ensuring that those spaces are clean, healthy, and safe.
2. Spring Schedule: The BOR has asked that universities include more face-to-face instruction during the Spring semester, including trying to ensure that hybrid classes meet with all students meet face-to-face at least once a week. Provost Schwaig noted that some universities with greater space are able to provide more F2F socially-distanced learning, but that others, like KSU, which has limited space, is still trying to maximize its existing space while remaining safe.
3. Dean’s Search: the Wellstar Dean’s search is entering its final stages. Goal will be to have a new dean in place by next summer.
4. The University will celebrate the career of Ron Matson, who will be retiring at the end of the semester. Dr. Matson’s virtual celebration will be November 6, 11:00.

Old Business

Plus/Minus Grading System – Dr. Cristen Dutcher, PhD

1. Senator Cristen Dutcher, Accountancy, presented the following motion:
   1. Plus/Minus Grading System Motion:
   2. The KSU Faculty Senate requests that our President and Provost petition the University System of Georgia for KSU to use the following Plus/Minus Grading System.  All faculty will be required to use Plus/Minus Grading, but the assignment of grades will be at each instructor's discretion (i.e. in each course, instructors define what grades are in A+ range, A range, A- range, etc.).  KSU will not use this system in the calculation of the HOPE Scholarship GPA.

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| KSU Grading System | |
| Grade | GPA |
| A+ | 4.30 |
| A | 4.00 |
| A- | 3.70 |
| B+ | 3.30 |
| B | 3.00 |
| B- | 2.70 |
| C+ | 2.30 |
| C | 2.00 |
| C- | 1.70 |
| D | 1.00 |
| F | 0.00 |

1. Senators Bill Griffiths, Mathematics, noted that while several mathematics faculty were for the resolution (40%), a greater number were against (60%) with an overwhelming majority (95%) against an A+. Several faculty felt that the pt. distinctions between the different grades was too subtle too matter, and that it would be difficult to distinquish between a B and a B+, for instance.
2. Senator James Gambrell, Inclusive Education, noted that his department was in near universal support of the motion.
3. Senator Daniel Rogers, Psychology, asked whether there would be a notification on new transcripts when the system was implemented. Senator Dutcher noted that it was not included in the existing proposal.
4. Senator Darina Lepadatu, Sociology, wondered if this would penalize students whose performance had suffered during (and because of) the pandemic.
5. Senator Doug Moodie, Hospitality and Management, stated that the motion that was presented while Dr. Papp was President passed by a 60/40 vote. He also noted that Hope does not use pluses and minuses.
6. Senator Moodie motioned to remove the A+. Motion passed with all in favor and one opposed.
7. Senator Griffiths suggested that we postpone the resolution until there can be a faculty-wide vote. Senator Joanne Lee, Part-Time Liaison, requested that part-time faculty be included in the vote.
8. William Griffiths moved to postpone the vote until there could be a faculty-wide vote. Once a faculty-wide vote were taken, then the Senate would discuss and vote on the resolution since the Senate votes on policy. Parliamentarian Jeff Yunek, Music, noted that a time would need to be set for the postponement. Senator Griffiths’ set the time for the following faculty meeting, November 16, 2020.
9. The motion to postpone the vote passed unanimously.

Senate Time Resolution – Drs. James Gambrell and Heather Pincock

1. Senators James Gambrell, Inclusive Education, and Heather Pincock, Conflict Management, presented the following resolution:
   1. Create and prioritize agenda items that are important to faculty and the Faculty Senate, rather than items that reflect what university administrators prioritize.
   2. Request written reports from the KSU President and Provost for dissemination the Friday before each Senate meeting with the announcements that are normally made verbally.
   3. Remove standing “president report” and “provost report” from the beginning of the agenda.
   4. Prioritize “old business” and “new business” before presentations from administration officials.
   5. When necessary, and invited by FSEC, create a “question and answer” session for the president and provost on the agenda, where senators may ask for clarification on items in the written reports.
   6. Move “president report” and “provost report” to last two items on the agenda, where they shall be presented if time allows
2. No Discussion
3. Motion passed with one dissent.

Cross-leveling and Cross-Disciplinary Motion, Drs. Anissa Vega, Xiao Huang, Nihal Khote, and Michelle Head

1. Dr. Anissa Vega presented the following policies:
2. **New KSU Policy on Course Cross-listing \***
   1. A cross-listed course is a course that is offered under more than one prefix. It must have documentation with the Office of the Registrar and a proper description in the course catalog.1
   2. Courses must be within the same undergraduate or graduate numbering level
   3. Cross-listed courses must have the same credit hours and same learning outcomes. In addition, sections of a cross-listed course must have the same syllabi, which includes the same instructor, course location and time, assignments and grading scheme.
   4. Special Topics courses can only be cross-listed with an equivalent Special Topics course with another departmental prefix.
   5. Traditional independent study, honors thesis, practica, internships, directed study, master’s thesis, dissertation courses should not be cross-listed.
   6. Cross-listed courses must be supported by a rationale or justification.
   7. No more than three courses can be cross-listed unless all prefixes are owned by the same department.
   8. Students cannot earn credit for more than one of the cross-listed courses.
3. **New KSU Policy on Course Cross-leveling \***
   1. A cross-leveled course is a course that is offered by departments across numbers and/or level. The two courses that are cross-leveled are owned by the same department. It must have documentation with the Office of the Registrar and a proper description in the course catalog.
   2. Cross-leveled courses are limited to the following two course pairs: 1) undergraduate upper division course/graduate course, and 2) graduate course/doctoral course. 9000 level special topics, directed study, thesis, internships, practica, and dissertation courses may not be cross-leveled.
   3. Cross-leveled courses must be supported by a rationale for combining students of different levels.
   4. Cross-leveled courses must ensure there is a clear distinction between the requirements of undergraduate and graduate students or graduate and doctoral students, with more advanced course work for the higher-level degree program. This will be demonstrated in two different syllabi that include, but are not limited to, different objectives, assessments and/or outcomes.
   5. Cross-leveled courses at the graduate level must be taught by faculty with graduate faculty status.
   6. Sections of cross-leveled courses must share the same modality.
   7. Requests for policy exceptions may be submitted to UPCC or GPCC.
4. Dr. Vega noted that cross-leveled and cross-disciplinary courses have not been tracked, documented, nor applied consistently. Because of this, several inconsistencies have arisen, including students being able to take the same course multiple times. She also noted that this issue was initially raised in the Spring, when a survey was sent out to faculty. Departments that expressed concern were then consulted. The request for a policy was made by the UPCC and GPCC.
5. Dr. Huang shared a copy of the policy on the screen. He noted that the group research several university policies and met with various stakeholders, including the Senate and the CDA. Currently, there exists no policy to track and maintain the integrity of the courses.
6. Senator Jeff Yunek, Music, asked whether there was cross-leveling between upper-level undergraduate courses and master’s level courses.
7. Dr. Vega noted that when she reads the policy there is cross-leveling between undergraduate to graduate courses, as well as master’s level to doctoral level courses.
8. Senator Yunek also asked whether there can be cross-leveling between 2000 to 3000 level courses. The response was that financial aid would not permit that. Senator Yunek noted that this would cause havoc on Music because all students have to be in an ensemble where some students take this as an Area F requirement, while others take it as part of their upper-division 21 hours.
9. Dr. Huang noted that exceptions could be inserted into the policy. They also suggested that the group that put the proposals together had talked to Amy Jones in the Registrar’s office, and they feel confident that she can create a form for UPCC and GPCC that would allow exceptions.
10. Senator Rebecca Hill, ISD, asked why special topics courses could not be cross-listed with other existing courses, which often occurs in ISD as well as other courses in CHSS. In addition, is there any evidence of students taking the same course twice under different numbers to get double credit.
11. Dr. Vega noted that because no documentation or tracking exists, the committee does not know whether this has actually happened. It also means that they cannot offer that cross-listing to all students. In response to Senator Hill’s first question, Dr. Vega noted that it is difficult to establish an equivalency since a special topics course changes, while a permanent course does not. Logistically, a permanent relationship cannot be established.
12. Dr. Hill noted that even a “permanent course” will differ greatly from instructor to instructor, or time to time in which it is offered.
13. A motion to extend time passed. The majority were in favor with two opposed.
14. Senator Heather Pincock, Conflict Management, noted that there seemed to be no data to substantiate the policy. She also noted that last spring was not a good time to raise and deliberate on the issue because of the pandemic.
15. Senator James Gambrell, Inclusive Education, agreed that the timing was off because of the pandemic.
16. Dr. Hill explained that the policy would create a number of problems for ISD since ISD has course prefixes that are more general while other programs, with whom ISD would cross-list, such as English, are more specific. Moreover, courses in ISD and partnering programs can change substantially from year to year. Finally, several issues arise with some of the grad course numbering.
17. Dr. Vega reminded that this policy was initiated by members of UPCC and GPCC who felt that a policy was needed.
18. Motion was not approved. 29 Against, 10 in Favor

Old Business

Minutes Approved – Dr. M. Todd Harper

1. Minutes Approved

Budget Transparency Resolution – Dr. Heather Pincock

1. Senator Heather Pincock, Conflict Management, presented the following resolution:
   1. The KSU Faculty Senate requests full budget transparency and seeks to establish a regular process for discussion and consultation between faculty and administrators about the KSU budget. To accomplish this we propose the following:
      1. The FSEC will receive detailed budgets annually once proposed budgets (projected revenues and expenses) are finalized (typically in spring). This will also include revenue and expense reports for the KSU Foundation.
      2. The FSEC will receive budget updates on final and major changes to expected revenue and expenses when they become available.
      3. The FSEC will convene, at a minimum once annually (but more frequently as appropriate), a meeting of the full faculty with the President and members of the President’s Cabinet for discussion of the KSU budget.
      4. Prior to the meeting, the FSEC will share budget information with and gather questions from the faculty. The meeting will be moderated by the Faculty Senate President or another faculty member designated by the FSEC.
2. Dr. Pincock explained that several items have arisen recently in the Senate that required a knowledge of the budget in order to make an informed decision. This resolution would require that the KSU administration to provide a detailed budget to the FSEC and to the Senate (and, then, to the greater KSU community), including one or more forums annually that would be dedicated to a Q and A about the budget.
3. Senator Randy Stuart, Marketing, asked whether this would be a first reading? Dr. Pincok replied that she is proposing that the Senate vote on this now.
4. Senator Doug Moodie, Hospitality and Management, stated that we needed a budget to look forwards and backwards, including asking the KSU leadership to provide detailed reports for last year as well as this year. He also noted that there is a difference between a budget and an expenditure report.
5. Senator Joanne Lee, Part-Time Liasion, asked if the resolution was calling for monthly updates? Dr. Pincock replied that she had not envisioned it being monthly.
6. Resolution was passed: 35 in Favor, 3 Against.

Honors Designation Policy Adjustment – Dr. Becky Shabo

1. Senator Becky Shabo presented the following resolution:
   1. **1. Honors Designation Policy Adjustment**
      1. Revision: Nursing faculty in the Accelerated Bachelors of Nursing (Becky Shabo). The policy changes the number of credit hours required from 60 to 57.
      2. Successfully routed to CDA, FS, DC
   2. **Graduation with Honors**
      1. An institutional grade point average of at least 3.5 is required for students to graduate cum laude, 3.7 to graduate magna cum laude and 3.9 to graduate summa cum laude from a baccalaureate program. Graduation with honors requires that students earn at least 57 semester credit hours in residence at Kennesaw State University for the bachelor's degree. Approved accelerated bachelor to masters courses will be included in the 57 earned semester hours required for honors.
      2. To receive honors at graduation, "second degree" and Academic Renewal students must have at least 57 earned hours of credit at KSU after the "second degree" or Academic Renewal status was granted. In addition, for honors, students who have repeated courses must have at least 57 earned hours of credit at KSU after the hours for the repeated courses have been excluded.
2. Resolution was passed unanimously.

K-Credit Resolution – Dr. Paul Parker

1. Dr. Paul Parker presented the following motion:
   1. **K-Credit Policy**
      1. Revision: The Office of the Registrar has asked that the K-Credit policy be revised.
      2. Routed to CDA, DC
      3. The current policy reads:
      4. K**:** indicates credit awarded by examination including, but not limited to, the following:
         1. Advanced Placement (AP)
         2. College Level Examination Program (CLEP)
         3. International Baccalaureate (IB)
         4. DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSST)
         5. Foreign Language Achievement Testing Service (FLATS)
         6. Departmental Course Exams for Advanced Standing
         7. Prior Learning Assessment (portfolio review)
         8. Military Credit
      5. The Revision Reads:
      6. K: Indicates credit awarded via Prior Learning Assessment, including but not limited to:
         1. Credit-by-Exam
         2. Military Credit
         3. Portfolio Review for Advance Standing
2. Resolution Passed Unanimously

Informational Item – Dr. Ronald Briggs, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students

1. Dr. Ronald Briggs introduced himself as the new Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students

Motion to Adjourn

1. Motion to adjourn was passed unanimously at 1:45 PM