Faculty Senate Notes November 14, 2023 Holloway Hall 119

https://www.salisbury.edu/administration/campus-governance/faculty-senate/

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Call to order (3:30 pm)

- 1. Announcements from President Lepre
  - a. President thanks all who attending State of the University address, including many students. President highlighted parts of the address:
    - i. President thanks Faculty and Deans for new programs (engineering, music therapy, public communication)
    - ii. President commends every person who helped an SU student become a Rhodes finalist, the only student in the USM to be a finalist this year
    - iii. President accepted 'We the People' award from AASC&U on behalf of PACE director
  - b. Copies of Annual Report are available and will be brought to Dean's offices
    - i. Budget information in back of report
  - c. Still working through processes in HR to streamline them (such as position requests)
    - i. VP of Administration and Finance is working on that as her biggest project
  - d. More information is upcoming about distribution of supplemental funds
  - e. Judy Jackson, a prominent, long-time supporter of SU's music program, passed away and will be missed
- 2. Approval of minutes
  - a. Minutes from the October 24, 2023 regular business meeting approved as written
- 3. Announcements from Provost Couch
  - a. Sabbatical numbers
    - i. Provided sabbatical numbers since AY19-20, which are included in the minutes
    - ii. Concerns had been raised about whether administration denied sabbaticals for budget reasons

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- iii. Provost is trying to pilot a project to audit skills of a few programs by deepdiving into curriculum to find how skills are being taught and how we are accountable to that
  - 1. Wants to identify ~5 programs to do this deep-dive into
  - 2. Will report more by Spring 2024
- c. Academic Policies Committee (APC) is looking at Religious Accommodations Policy
  - i. SU had to put draft policy in place for this semester, but APC is working on updating it
  - ii. USM is making their own revisions. Provost will send any changes to Faculty Senate
- d. In years past, we had a campus-

- c. At Consortium Coordinating Committee meeting, there may be a joint meeting between all shared governance bodies
  - i. Topic might perhaps be on budget, but this is yet to be determined
- d. At Consortium Coordinating Committee meeting, bylaws changes discussed at the October 24, 2024 Faculty Senate meeting were discussed
  - i. The Faculty Senate had incorrect information at the October 24 meeting. In fact, both the Adjunct Faculty Caucus and the Faculty Senate voted against the changes, so the changes were not approved
  - ii. Consortium Coordinating Committee looking for feedback for what changes need made to get it passed because several of the current standing committees have unfilled spots and are not meeting

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- 1. Each person will do it themselves
- 2. In special cases, a facilities person will clean it
- ix. Question: Why can facilities people not continue to service?
  - 1. Additional work for them.
  - 2. Want buy-in from faculty
- 5. Unfinished business and general orders of the day
  - a. MOTION to extend deadline for Ad Hoc Committee on Student Evaluations of Faculty Teaching
    - i. Amendment: Change deadline to first meeting in April because many reports are due last meeting in April already
      - 1. Amendment passes
    - ii. Motion passes
  - b. MOTION on ad hoc committee for revising Emergency Absence Policy
    - i. This committee has had trouble making progress due to delay in placing students on committee. Also trouble getting faculty to chair the committee
    - ii. This motion required that Consortium bylaws had been changed. Since the bylaws have not changed (see notes above), motion should be amended to send this charge back to APC
      - 1. Since those bylaws had not been changed, the current motion is not feasible because an ad hoc committee could not be created
    - iii. Amendment: Send this to APC to propose revisions to Emergency Absence Policy
      - 1. Amendment to amendment: Adding deadline of first FS meeting in April 2024.
        - a. Amendment to the amendment passes.
      - Amendment passes.
    - iv. Motion passes
  - c. MOTION for International Education Committee
    - i. Question: Can charge include things that are not specifically in motion?
      - 1. Parliamentarian: Yes, but it is suggested that the charge mirrors the motion
    - ii. Comment from Senator on the committee: This has been discussed within a school-level committee on international education, and the charge is welcome
    - iii. Question: What is reason for this motion? Assistant Provost for International Education could perhaps give info to FS to resolve some of the issues rather than requiring faculty to work on this committee
      - 1. Answer: From faculty perspective, a lot of things have not been running smoothly regarding international education since COVID. Needs to be more efficient and less onerous for faculty. Faculty are often told what they can and cannot do changes rapidly.

- iv. Comment from Senator: Issues are not Assistant Provost's fault but are due to lack of budget. Also, part of problems come from students studying abroad who could be learning the same stuff here or who are Zooming into classes here.
- v. Question: Should the motion be made more specific so that the committee has more direction?
  - 1. Answer from Senator on a school-level committee: No, this breadth is needed.
- vi. Comment from Senator: Working with faculty and students learning internationally, many of them requested that this Senator second the motion.
- vii. Comment from Senator: Grades from study abroad take a long time to post, which can inhibit people graduating
- viii. Comment from Senator on this committee: Would like to stay action on this motion because it is a major escalation. Would prefer the chance to bring this to committee informally first because it may be seen as an attack on the committee
  - 1. Answer: This motion is urgent. Faculty currently have had plans for international education getting revoked at the last minute
  - 2. Answer: This motion is to help the committee, not attack them
- ix. Comment from Senator: Lack of communication since COVID has caused some of these issues. We need to work on this aspect
- x. Amendment: Change 'investigating' to 'reviewing'