

MINUTES OF
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
April 27, 2021

The fifth Faculty Senate meeting of the 2020-2021 academic year was called to order by Assoc. Librarian Jill Dixon, Faculty Senate chair, at 11:48 am via Zoom.

1. Minutes

Minutes from March 9, 2021 meeting were approved.

2. Curriculum

- a. Discontinuance of Family Clinical Nurse Specialist
Discontinuance of Community Health Clinical Nurse Specialist

Chair Jill Dixon noted that any students graduating from these programs are not eligible for advanced licensure so that is why they are being discontinued. Prof. Sara Reiter, School of Management, noted these are nurse specialists programs. This was approved by FSEC before coming to the Senate.

Motion is to approve the discontinuance of these programs. After no discussion, it was approved with 58 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions via a vote on Zoom.

4. New Business

- a. Graduate School Bylaws changes

Interim Dean of the Graduate School Donald Nieman reviewed the overall changes and the reason for these changes. The revisions being proposed were approved by the Graduate Council.

He noted that a joint Provost/Faculty Senate task force was formed to look at the process for graduate curriculum approval to make the process more efficient so we could move degree programs more quickly through the process and to the market. The task force looked at decentralizing the process for approvals from the department, to the faculty committee at the school level, to EPPC, to Faculty Senate Executive Committee, then to the Faculty Senate. As a result of these proposed changes, it was necessary to revise the Graduate School bylaws which originally placed curriculum review in the Graduate Council. There were a number of things that seemed to need revision; it was clear that the bylaws were a historical artifact that were put in place in the mid-1960's when we began to develop graduate programs. Many departments at that time did not have graduate programs.

As far as changes to graduate faculty, all faculty who hold academic rank are members of graduate faculty and can participate in electing Graduate Council. We have reduced the number of members in the Graduate Council to 21 faculty; faculty membership is divided between 11 graduate directors and 10 elected faculty members. Having graduate directors involved in day-to-day business of graduate education brings much needed knowledge to the Graduate Council discussion. We have eliminated the curriculum committee, kept a number of committees, and created two new committees (diversity committee and graduate student professional development). These proposed changes will be sent to all faculty for their approval.

Prof. Aaron Beedle, School of Pharmacy, asked where graduate curricula would go for approvals. Provost Nieman said approval will now go from the department, to the faculty committee at the school level, to EPPC, to Faculty Senate Executive Committee, to the Faculty Senate.

Prof. Andrew Walkling, Theatre, asked if one was elected to Graduate Council for a two-year term and was not a graduate director after one year, could they still remain a member of the Graduate Council. Provost Nieman answered that yes, it would be possible that they continue and finish out their term.

Prof. Michael Armstrong, Biological Sciences, asked if faculty who are not on a tenure track are eligible for Graduate Council. Provost Nieman noted that there is a provision for a petition in order to serve. If anyone has any changes to suggest, they should be brought to the Graduate Council next year.

b. Faculty Senate Bylaws changes

Prof. Sara Reiter, School of Management, introduced changes to the Faculty Bylaws. Once the curriculum approval process was changed in the Graduate School Bylaws, we looked at committee charges that may have been affected by their changes. Recommendations made as a result of the Middle States Accreditation visit were also looked at.

Budget Review Committee now has explicit review of academic business plans for new programs and to reflect what they have been doing.

EPPC's charge removed the approval of academic undergraduate level policy to UUC. EPPC has now become a program review committee, so its name was changed to Program Review Committee; its charge was updated and the number of representatives was increased so every school and the Libraries have representation.

UUC updated their charge to what they actually do.

Advisory Committee for Scholarship and Research (ACSR) which had been a standing committee of the Graduate Council is moved over to being a Senate joint committee with the Provost. We worked with the Division of Research to write the charge and composition.

All of these proposed changes have been approved by FSEC.

After no discussion, the motion to approve the Faculty Bylaws changes was put to a vote via Zoom. It was approved with 59 approved, 0 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

c. University Faculty Senate resolution "University Faculty Senate Recognizes and Supports Black Lives Matter"

This resolution is brought to the Faculty Senate to endorse. We cannot make changes to the resolution. Prof. Sara Reiter noted that the UFS formed a special Black Lives

Matter committee and this is the resolution they developed. She also noted that the Senate approved a resolution earlier in this academic year putting social justice and equity concerns in our curriculum. This is much more focused on Black Lives Matter and anti-racism. FSEC has agreed to endorse.

After no discussion, the motion to endorse the University Faculty Senate resolution was put to a vote via Zoom. It was endorsed by 55 approved, 3 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

d. Brightspace

Paula Russell, Senior Director of Center for Learning and Teaching and Andrea MacArgel, Director of Instructional Design in Center for Learning and Teaching, presented the information regarding the transition to a new learning management system, Brightspace. Faculty may use this for the summer session, which is optional. Brightspace will be fully operational for the fall 2021 semester.

<https://www.binghamton.edu/academics/brightspace/>

Prof. Ann Fronczek, Decker College of Nursing, asked if organizations/groups can also be moved. Paula Russell noted that yes, they could be moved.

Prof. Serdar Atav, Decker College of Nursing, noted that he has already transferred courses seamlessly and asked if everything on Blackboard including assignments could be transferred into Brightspace. Andrea MacArgel responded that when you do an export in Blackboard, you can check which things are included in that export. As a default, one may want to check the contents of the resulting zip file. She encouraged everyone to check all the content, focusing on links to be sure all are functioning. The University Center for Training and Development (UCTD) can be contacted for assistance. We do know that journals do not transfer, as Brightspace does not have a journal function. Journals must, therefore, be recreated through a workaround in Brightspace.

Prof. Nagendra Nagarur asked about training. Paula Russell noted that UCTD will have training available in the beginning of May and continuing throughout the summer. UCTD has also scheduled open office hours with the ability to make specific appointments.

Prof. Scott Craver, Electrical and Computer Engineering and chair of FSEC, asked about any shell courses that we have created to “play with”. Will those shell courses expire after a certain time? Andrea MacArgel answered that they will stay there until you specifically ask to have them deleted.

Andrea noted that there will be 24/7 phone, email, and chat support through Brightspace. One can also join the Brightspace community. A Brightspace Binghamton-specific community has been added for anyone who would like to communicate with other Binghamton Brightspace users.

Chair Jill Dixon noted that the two factor authentication does not have to be done until August 1 but reminded faculty that it must be done by August 1. Questions can be directed to ITS. Prof.

Andrew Scholtz, Classical and Near Eastern Studies, noted that there was a concern about re-authentication; we hope that that will be addressed in the near future. Paula Russell noted that there has been walk-in assistance in the Learning Studio.

Prof. Scott Craver said that there was some confusion about having to change over this month. This has been pushed to August as there was a concern that this is a critical time of the year and changing now may interfere with classes and exams. Moving it to August 1 gives everyone an opportunity to set Brightspace up on their own time over the summer. However ITS does want to be sure that no one changes over at the last second.

After no more business, the meeting adjourned at 12:38 pm.

Present: Seden Akcinaroglu, Jeffner Allen, Laura Anderson, Nathanael Andrade, Allan Arkush, Michael Armstrong, Serdar Atav, Aaron Beedle, Kimberly Brimhall, Paul Chairot, Stephen Capobianco, Leon Cosler, Scott Craver, Sidney Dement, Marilynn Desmond, Jill Dixon, Patrick Doyle, Danielle Dunne, Anthony Ephirim-Donkor, Alex Feingold, Mark Fowler, Jeroen Gerritis, Neyda Gilman, Guy German, Jennifer Gordon, Madhusudhan Govindaraju, Christopher Hanes, Kevin Hatch, Norah Henry, Robert Holahan, Kimberly Jaussi, Anja Karanein, Anushree Karkhanis, Clarice Kelleher, Blazo Kovacevic, Jonathan Krasno, BriaAnna Langlie, Alistair Lees, Cynthia Marasigan, Richard Mattson, Natalija Mijatovic, Ralph Miller, Nagendar Nagarur, Richard Naslund, Donald Nieman, Sara Reiter, Myra Sabir, Paul Schleuse, Andrew Scholtz, David Schuster, Thomas Sinclair, Harvey Stenger, Elizabeth Tucker, Andrew Walkling, Bruce White, Thomas Wilson, Michelle Withers, Wei Xiao, Sarah Young, John Zilvinskis, Yan Zhang

Absent: Nancy Applebaum, Anne Bailey, John Baust, Christopher Bishop, Yulia Bosworth, Ana Maria Candela, Hwan-Sik Choi, Sung Chung, Leon Ciu, Lois Einhorn, Salvador Fajardo, Nicole Fenty, Rodney Gabel, Thomas Glave, Khaleel James, Dikran Karagueuzian, Michael Lawler, Katherine Martineau, Ronald Miles, Kirsten Prior, Joshua Reno, Kevin Santiago Valles, Antonio Sobejano-Moran, John Starks, Lijun Yin, Zhongfei Zhang