

Meeting Minutes – BSC Faculty Senate

Location: Google Meet

Date: January 8, 2021

Time: 9:00 am

Attendance:

Darrell Thompson, James Pruet, Tamara Ferguson, Tina Nicholson, Mike Lilly, Amanda Matoushek, Michelle Taylor, Roy Pruet, Amanda Quesenberry, Amanda Banks, Debjani Chakrabarti, D. Arachchi, Vanessa Godfrey, Kelli Sarver, Rodney Montague, Karen Grogan, Amy Atwell, Angela Lambert, John Snead, Darrel Malamisura; Faculty Senate Chair.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Darrel Malamisura, Faculty Senate Chair at 9:03 am. This was an emergency meeting to discuss the academic policy that was passed.

Darrel stated that on 1/7/21, the BOG had a meeting to pass the new academic policy. Some revisions were made to the policy after the faculty had submitted their suggestions for changes. Amanda Matoushek found documentation that the BOG needs only to provide 15 days for comments instead of 30. There were no notifications that the policies had been reposted for comments before voting.

John Snead, acting Dean of the School of Business, attended the BOG meeting on 1/7/21 for the passing of the new academic policies. He spoke with a BOG member that stated they sent the revised policy to Larry Zande to post on or about 12/22 and they do not have to notify the faculty that they policy was posted for comment before the vote.

Angela Lambert, Dean of School of Nursing and Allied Health, stated that she was told the new policy would not affect Associate programs, but after looking more closely at the policy, it would add 3-9 more hours. She stated that no other nursing or rad tech program in the state requires those courses. This will deter students from coming to our college. She stated that according to the state, associate programs must have 23-24 general education hours and the required is 60 hours for both associate degrees. The programs are already over the 60, but with special permission from the state. She stated that she has been tasked with creating new healthcare programs and will be unable to start until she knows what will be required from this new policy. Dr. Lambert is concerned about what academic policy will her new incoming programs follow. That the college catalog currently does not include these new general education requirements.

Rodney Montague, stated that a Western Civilization course is no longer taught at the school, they now teach World Civilization. The policy does not specify which type of history course needs to be taught. He stated that it will affect programs that are very stringent in the amount of hours they can have. We also do not have the faculty to teach these additional classes. The school would have to hire a Theologian to the faculty.

Michelle Taylor also stated that it will affect the Honors College. This could add a lot more credit hours to education or business students. This would also deter students from being in the Honors College program or attending the college at all.

Tamara Ferguson said that this will include many changes to our assessment plan to reflect the outcomes of the new required courses. It will take a long time to rebuild our assessment plan. It will also take a team to rebuild the general studies program and Mike Smith to change everything we currently have in Live Text.

Mike Lilly suggests we send a letter stating that we will not abide by these guidelines. They are impossible to meet due to current staffing and that we were not a part of this policy. They are asking for programmatic changes to the general education program that are not possible and faculty that do not exist.

Darrel would like all deans to send him any specific information on why this will not work in each program. He also wants a few of the faculty senate members to get together and decide how they are going to approach the issue to the BOG of how it was handled inappropriately. Darrel asked Mike Lilly what steps can be taken if an institution does not abide by the statutes. Mr. Lilly said you could possibly file a grievance or seek litigation. If we file a grievance, this would put the policy on hold. Mr. Lilly stated we need to talk with Dr. Lewis and see what the repercussions are if we do not follow this policy. The question was asked when will this policy take affect and Darrel stated that it will be immediately. Darrel would like to craft a letter to send to either the president or the BOG stating why this is impossible to implement because of the programmatic concerns and will not work. Darrel will try to schedule a meeting with Dr. Lewis to let him know what concerns we have and the steps we will begin to take. Mike Lilly, Tamara Ferguson and Amanda Matoushek volunteered to draft the letter that will be sent to the president and BOG.

Adjournment:

With no other issues to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:58 am.

DM/aa