



Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

August 29th, 2025

Attendance: Amanda Matoushek, Betty Nash, Darrel Malamisura, President Martin, Jack Sheffler, Julie Orr, Kristin Hicks, Provost Sarita Rhonemus, Tabitha Young, David Blalok, Albert Berkoh, and Vincent Mateescu.

Absent: Vanessa Godfrey (meeting was recorded in GOOGLE and transcribed by Tactiq), Rodney Montague and invited guest Marvienne Johnson (Registrar).

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:02 am by Senate Chair Darrel Malamisura

Approval of minutes: Minutes were approved without any changes once a quorum was met. Motion to approve minutes was Kristin and Julie seconded.

Comments from Leadership- Sarita Rhonemus: Attendance verification is still not being done correctly. Faculty should not simply verify all students. Faculty that are repeat offenders of marking all students present names will be sent to the Deans for correction. Next semester they are looking at verification for M/W/F courses and then for T/TH courses. Faculty have concerns of adding students into courses after attendance verification. This semester there was 46 students added after the verification date. Sarita stated last fall there were 76. It was asked how many days the student stays in Moodle once the student is not verified. Unverified students are dropped from MOODLE effective today after 4pm.

HLC Prep Committee will start meeting on Sept. 19th and meet every two weeks.

President Martin: Darrel voiced concerns that the policy of naming of buildings or schools was put out for thirty- day comment without bringing it to college counsel for any form of shared governance. The President tried to explain the mindset of the Board when creating it. They thought they were just adding details to the original statements. However, the policy went from basically a short paragraph to three pages of a policy.

The President thanked faculty for helping boost enrollment by working extra registrations and attending recruitment events to help with the enrollment increase that has occurred this fall.

Old Business: *Post Tenure Review Update*- There has not been any progress in this thus far. The President wants to meet with representatives next week and in the meantime also check with Cynthia on the budget to be able to state if there is any financial incentive. One faculty asked if a tenure faculty elects not to go through the process, will they be terminated? President stated no they would not as long as they are fulfilling the expectations of their contract through BSU. The President assured faculty that this was not designed to be a punitive measure. It was also asked if possible for those that went through a tenure review process "DC" be considered for the incentive they never received.

Upward Evaluations- Sarita and Pres. Martin are now meeting just one on one weekly to address this issue that we have had no answers to thus far. Also, the President has requested to meet with Darrel one on one to keep items of contention or concern on the forefront.

Access to Listservs: Darrel don't have access to certain listserv links without going through three other people. Also, the BSU news and events emails need to be more focused to the specific persons that need to see them instead of everything going to everyone. The President and the Provost don't even have access to send out BSU emails on their own. It must go through the administrator. Question arose of how much filtering is actually being done on the emails that are sent anyway.

Master Schedule and calendar- When Darrel and Sarita meet he will show her what he is working on for this. He just got most of the rosters for the various committees except from the school of STEM. He is still waiting on who will be appointed from that school.

Delays in Financial Aid Processing- Sarita stated that there will be some changes implemented to improve turn around time for all returning students. Proposed that their package will be put together and students will be notified in December for the following Fall semester. Question if there is enough staff to handle the increased number of students.

Committee Reports- Currently there are none due to the committee members just getting started for the academic year.

New Business: Faculty Emeritus: Are there any updates on when or if this will be presented. Names have been submitted but no update as of yet from President's office. There is a procedure/ process needed to be placed in the handbook. Darrel has editing access to the handbook and can add it as well.

Hiring Shortages for classes based on the number of preps: Multiple departments are short staffed at the current time. Most faculty are teaching overloads and still do not have contracts on those overloads. Contracts not going out until the 3rd or 4th week of a semester has the potential to have faculty or adjuncts not return to teach for BSU. They are essentially teaching several weeks for free. Sarita and President Martin stated they have it on their list of ways to secure funding and recruit faculty that is needed to take the overload off existing faculty.

Institutional Effectiveness and Research Position: We still do not have anyone in this position. President Martin said to add this issue to the list of items for his meeting with Sarita.

Fundraising Position for the Foundation: Darrel asked for an update on this. President Martin stated they are still looking at a candidate that may be able to help in this position. Logistics need to be worked out and hopefully have someone on board in the next couple of weeks.

Faculty Handbook Update: It is basically done and will be posted in the next couple of weeks. It will be a live document that can be edited whenever there are changes. It is a GOOGLE doc.

MBA Handbook: Tabitha updated everyone that the MBA handbook is complete and has been sent to the Provost (Sarita) for her review and approval. Then it will be ready to be made public.

Enrollment: In the BOG meeting on August 28th it was reported that our student numbers were up to 1,442. This is a headcount number of everyone not necessarily full -time students. A few dual enrollment students did have trouble getting access to the courses until the second week of the

semester. Sarita will check on the situation that may have caused this. It was also mentioned that some of our late enrolled students were placed in classes that were designated for High School Students only even though they are not High School students. It was questioned as to why. Sarita stated that counselors were scrambling to get these students scheduled when all other classes are full. It was asked how faculty handles the situation of attendance verification already completed and students are being admitted after verification but still does not do their work? How are they verified or unverified? Sarita stated that would be a question for Tammy Martin in Financial Aid.

Motion to adjourn: With no further business to discuss, Julie motioned to adjourn and Betty Seconded the motion. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm.