



## General Faculty Meeting Minutes

1-14-26

A quorum was met with 35 Faculty Present with a minimum of 20 full time faculty exceeded.

**Darrel Malamisura called the meeting to order at 11:15 am.**

**Approval of minutes:** The motion to approve the November general faculty minutes was made by Bonnie Reese and Seconded by Joel Vance. All were in favor and none opposed. Minutes were approved.

Then a motion was made to approved the Senate minutes from December. Bonnie Reese made a motion and Joel Vance seconded. All were in favor with none opposed. Minutes were approved.

**Update on items in the works:** Senate is working through the P& T committee to develop a process/ policy for non-tenure track faculty to be able to move to a tenure track position. Also deadlines will be set to get the P&T guidelines out to faculty. Policy 403C may be divided out into two policies to clarify guidelines. Also punitive language will be removed from the policy. We are still working with the board to have a satisfactory stipend for Post Tenure Review award.

Also, we are trying to get back the ability to drop students that are non-participatory students from our courses. No definitive word on this as of yet. Darrel has sent copies of other institutions policies on this to Dr. Rhonemus.

**Dr. Sarita Rhonemus (Provost update):** The meeting was turned over to the Provost to update all on the agenda items that have been on the Senate's list of concerns/ questions from Old Business.

**PTR/ Distinguished Professor-** Update was already given by Darrel

**Upward Evaluations-** The BOG is considering a self- evaluation of themselves as meets HLC standards. This evaluation may be used as upward evaluations to compare how admin. Views themselves in conjunction with how they are viewed by faculty/staff.

**Master Schedule and Calendar-** Schedules are being worked on to determine which courses should be offered during Fall only, Spring Only, or alternate years. They are trying to bring that back and also not have courses that overlap on the same week days per degree. Not sure when it will be completed.

**Delays in Financial Aid Processing:** For the first time ever, the award packages for registered students were sent out prior to Christmas break. This was extremely beneficial for retention of students.

**Faculty Emeritus:** The process needs to be placed in the handbook. Deans have been asked to send names of past recommendations to the Provost and then to be passed on to the President. Per Dr. Martin those faculty will be announced in the Spring 2026 graduation.

**Hiring Shortages for classes being taught:** Schedules have been adjusted to minimize courses with low enrollment. There has been hiring authorizations for many vacant faculty positions. Some have been filled. Darrel asked for a list of how many positions are open per school and which are actively being advertised to be filled. Director of Sonography and Assistant Professor of Psychology has been filled/closed.

**Institutional Effectiveness and Research Position:** Has been approved and is posted for applicants.

**Update on Fund Raising Position:** This is through the foundation and Rebecca Peterson (Former BOG member) was hired.

**Cutoff Amount for classes, contract timing and pay:** This was not addressed

**MBA Handbook:** This has been posted. There are still a couple of tweaks to be made but nothing major.

**Enrollment Numbers Not truly reflective of participating students:** Provost stated that it is a work in progress with timely attendance verification as well as accurate verification.

**Live Text and New System (when will it be online?):** Cody Chambers was referred to on this topic. It will be piloted this semester.

**Notifying Campus of Health Concerns (Process and Procedure):** The Previous Dean of Students has left his position and Dr. Ted Lewis will be acting as the interim in this position. So this needs to be discussed with him. He is in the process of making some changes.

**Coaches Promising Book Purchases for athletes:** AD Tucker has been made aware of this issue and Ryan Bailey and they will address it.

**Not Getting excused absence alerts in a timely manner:** There was a glitch in the system that the Provost was not receiving them. This has been fixed and there should not be any further issues. Darrel asked for the alerts to go to the specific faculty member with only specific names. This may not be possible with the system that is being used.

**Admission/ Recruiting policy of not recruiting for specific departments:** Josh Grubb is now over admissions. They will be looking at changes as to recruiting processes and perhaps more specificity.

**Budget is not really a Budget: Departments need a detailed budget per department for accreditations and knowledge of budget:** Sarita asked for a model of what this should look like. The problem of all money going into one pot makes for confusion as to what each department has. No resolution response to this issue.

**Big Blue Bash Money issues:** It was suggested that a meeting with Dr. Guyton be set to discuss the issues. Darrel has requested someone from Admin. Also be in attendance. The foundation should not have control over money that is raised by specific departments.

**Student Transportation on Holidays that aren't observed by BSU:** Dr. Lewis is in charge of this now and there is no resolution at this point.

**Total of how many administrative personnel have been hired recently as opposed to full time faculty members:** This was requested last semester with no response. There is still no data provided.

**Accepting Students late in the semester to take 8- week courses:** This will not be done anymore. The intent of 8-week courses is not for trying to “catch-up” on courses that they are not successful in in the same semester.

**Infringement into the classroom by administration and athletics:** AD Tucker needs the academic plan for his athletes. He is responsible for athletic retention and needs to assure the athlete is on track.

**The Floor was opened for questions from the faculty:** One faculty member pointed out that we are still waiting for the evacuation plan for going on a year now. When will this be finalized?? Also, we have had no safety (active shooter) type training. Is Brent Benjamin still in charge of this?? The answer is yes. There are no evacuation maps posted as promised. We have had no active shooter training. The provost stated that they do have fire drills planned. One faculty pointed out that if there is no evacuation plan, the fire drills will not be of any benefit for anyone.

**Motion to adjourn was made at 12 noon by Joel Vance and Seconded by Colin McGhee. All were in favor with none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 12 noon.**