M I N U T E S

September 29, 2014

4:00 PM

University Faculty Senate

Shawnee State University

**Call to Order**

UFS President Andrew Feight called the meeting to order.

**Roll Taking**

Secretary Janet Holtman recorded attendance. Present: All officers (Andrew Feight, Michael Barnhart, Jim Reneau, Jennifer Pauley, and Janet Holtman) and senators as follows: Glenna Heckler-Todt, Nancy Bentley, Sean Dunne, John Huston, Catherine Bailey, Tony Ward, Nick Meriwether, Isabel Graziani, Krista Maxson, Jon Bedick, Patric Leedom, Adam Miller, Virginia Pinson, Janet Snedegar, Keenan Perry, Daniel Finnen, and Linda Hunt. Absent: Jason Witherall.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the last meeting were approved by acclamation.

**UFS Officer Reports**

President's Report: UFS President Andrew Feight reported on the Ohio Faculty Council and particularly a discussion by prominent legislators of a possible across-the-board 15% cut in tuition at Ohio institutions. President Feight noted that the current chancellor had led the charge to increase funding when tuition was frozen. He also noted reports of declining enrollments from other campuses across the state, mentioning that our decline is the highest at 7%, although institutions such as Akron and Wright State have also reported declines. Our enforcement of the ACT score policy accounts for some of this, but it may better our retention numbers in the long run.

President Feight also reported on meetings regarding the budget, including a $2.5 million deficit that will be partly offset by the board's authorization of use of $1.5 million from reserves. Our reserves are up $2.6 million in value due to a positive stock market, but we will be facing a tough budget in 2016.

The meeting agenda was revised to include item #11, and President Feight further noted that our agenda structure overall has been revised to condense administrative reports. From now on, the Provost or his designee will offer a summary report.

Our next meeting will be 27 October.

Treasurer's Report - Treasurer Jim Reneau reported $1,099 in expenditures for travel expenses, books, publications, Quality Matters training. The report was accepted by acclamation, attached to minutes.

**Administration Reports**

Provost Report - Provost Alan Walker reported that there is an ongoing attempt to "find" one million dollars in the budget. The portion of that for Academic Affairs is still to be determined, and options are being explored. When there is a number, thing should move quickly, but cost-cutting measures are still underway. There will also be a meeting of the Resources Committee this week, which should shed some light. The guiding principle is that impact on current employees will be minimized. We should consider that lower enrollment may be partly offset by greater retention and that cuts will be strategic rather than across the board.

Library Director Search - The chair for this search will be Keenan Perry.

Associate Provost Search - This is taking time, partly because we are projecting forward 3-5 years in terms of competencies and how the position will relate to academic affairs. Issues to consider: retention, assessment.

Celebration of Scholarship - Jennifer Napper will be the director.

Honors Program - Mich Nyawalo will be the director.

Distance Education - Cathy Bailey will head this up.

The Provost also announced that promotion binders will be available electronically, and the process is going well.

Announcements from the floor: Virginia Pinson announced the "Be the Match" bone marrow registry drive.

**Committee Reports**

Executive Committee: President Feight briefly summarized several committee reports starting with the Executive Committee's vote in support of the hire of Provost Alan Walker, the appointment of faculty members to the Presidential Search Advisory Committee, the appointment of faculty to three shared-governance committees, and all current UFS standing committees, as well as the recommendation to re-start annual administrative reviews. The Executive Committee will meet again in October.

General Education Advisory Committee: Chair Phil Blau reported on the recent electronic submission of the ELOs to the university community for discussion. The Action Team met to integrate suggestions. GEAC meets the first Monday of the month.

Faculty Assessment Committee: Drew Feight reported as acting Chair. There has been re-organization after the constitutional amendments. There was no business last year, but the committee met a week ago. First item of business is the revision of academic program review policy. This had not been reviewed since the 1990s. The policy should be reviewed so that it comes to the senate for the November meeting. The committee will be chaired by Crystal Sherman.

**New Business**

Item for discussion: Competency-based hiring process. Dave Zender provided information to the senate on the current hiring/search process and the need for a standardized framework that will still allow for flexibility from one department to another. The need for an ad hoc committee to address this issue will be taken up at the October UFS meeting. In the meantime, the executive committee will discuss the need for a proposal and call for nominations.

A. EPCC Items - bundled and approved unanimously as follows:

1. Natural Sciences

a. Minor course change – BIOL 3852 – Marine Biology

b. Minor course change – BIOL 4370 - Mammalogy

2. GEAC

a. Addition of course – NTSC 3860: Environmental Science: Regional and

Global Perspectives on Sustainability

b. Deletion of course – NTSC 2850: Intro to Environmental Science

B. Motion to Create Standing Senate Budget Committee: Motion language edited and motion approved. Motion document attached to minutes.

C. Motion to Appoint a joint UFS-SEA Fall Social Ad Hoc Committee: Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.