

Academic Faculty Senate (2024-2025) Meeting MINUTES 10/18/24; 1:30-2:11 p.m.

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| <b>Academic Senate</b> | Call to order at 1:30 pm   | ZOOM |
| <b>Members Present</b> | Jessica Rowe, Tim Mayo, Curtis Kupferschmid, John Duerk, ,<br>Rachelle Bassen, Martin Schmidt, Robin Eppard, Jaspreet Gill,<br>Heather Reardon |      |
| <b>Members Absent</b>  | Mary Gillespie, Patrick Bell (note completed from recording)   |      |
| <b>Guests</b>          |  |      |

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| <b>Agenda Topic</b>          | <b>1. Approval of Minutes for MM/DD/YY</b>  |
| <b>Action Taken</b>          | Action  |
| <b>Summary of Discussion</b> | Correction to minutes: Kendal Valdez proxy added (proxy for Heather Reardon); Correction to Tim Mayo last name spelled incorrectly.<br>Heather Reardon – move to approve<br>John Duerk – second<br>Passed unanimously |

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| <b>Agenda Topic</b>          | <b>2. Senate Chair Report (Schmidt)</b>  |
| <b>Action Taken</b>          | Info   |
| <b>Summary of Discussion</b> | Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerns with deans, what are duties, faculty leads, credit lead, adjuncts all identified as issues. Need for more comprehensive discussion and clarification on process. Possibly the formation of an ad hoc committee to assist with the process of identifying duties of deans etc.</li> <li>Concerns with vacant faculty positions (full time) that need to be filled. Want to make sure search committees work to fill these positions to maintain adequate full-time faculty to meet course loads. Division directors will report to leadership the number of faculty positions that need to be filled.</li> <li>Equity report (faculty salaries): Is in procedures in guidelines in NSHE handbook. WNC is proposing</li> </ul> |

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|  | <p>completing an equity study (every two years) to make sure faculty salaries are being looked at.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Testing Center: Renovations planned for spring. Proposed to be moved temporarily to the Cisco Lab.</li> </ul> <p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rachelle Bassen: Considerations for exiting faculty. In disciplines with multiple faculty, it should be a collaborative effort and shared governance to make decisions on whether open position needs to be retained. Protecting faculty positions, considerations of building a new program within the division, class capacities, enrollment goals etc. Should be equitable and fair.</li> </ul> |
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| <b>Agenda Topic</b>          | <b>3. Executive updates (Dalpe)</b>  |
| <b>Action Taken</b>          | Info/Discussion  |
| <b>Summary of Discussion</b> | <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WNC is in good standing with enrollment and the school is at no risk for not being a viable institution, goals are being met, goal is to maintain current enrollment numbers.</li> <li>• Dean discussion: VP Academic Affairs workload is too heavy to manage effectively. WNC needs to develop a layered approach to maintain operational efficiency in terms of direct reports. Academic reorganization has been a topic of discussion since spring of 2019 (5 years of discussions, forums, leadership discussions, etc.). WNC leadership has made the decision to suspend the discussion on division deans for the time being (will bring up again next summer our fall). Current focus is on accreditation. Goal is to get more comprehensive feedback from divisions, faculty, and staff on dean discussion when WNC resumes the process.</li> </ul> |

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| <b>Agenda Topic</b>          | <b>4. NFA Updates (Rachelle Bassen)</b>  |
| <b>Action Taken</b>          | Info/Discussion  |
| <b>Summary of Discussion</b> | <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submitted notice of intent to bargain to leadership. Request for data points to better facilitate decision making processes to make more informed policy proposals. Planning to meet with our attorney by the end</li> </ul> |

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|  | <p>of the month. Negotiation is planned to begin the week of November 18<sup>th</sup> starting with ground rules. Survey to faculty will go out shortly (will be a climate type survey) to gain and understanding of where faculty are at. Plan is to provide NFA members with live updates during the negotiation process. Rachelle is attending workshops and trainings with the American Association of University Professors (AUP) on processes WNC can follow during the negotiation process.</p> |
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| <b>Agenda Topic</b>          | <b>5. Policy 11-1-1 Operational Mandate Environmentally Health and Safety</b>   |
| <b>Action Taken</b>          | Action  |
| <b>Summary of Discussion</b> | <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy 11-1-1 Operational Mandate Environmentally Health and Safety. Edits and updates to working of policy. Minor wording changes and fixing up the language of the document. Considering maintaining a lab supervisor position (part time if necessary).</li> <li>• Rachelle Bassen: More clarification on the roles of a Lab Supervisor and current Environmental Health and Science manager needed.</li> <li>• Robin Eppard: EHS an administrative position; develops policies and procedures across campus. In liberal arts and science, the labs of a very specific need for lab facilities; faculty in the sciences need to be part of the decision processes for the need of a lab supervisor including duties and responsibilities. We currently do not have a laboratory supervisor at this time.</li> <li>• Martin S.: Hold off on vote until there is clarification on the duties and responsibilities of a laboratory supervisor?</li> <li>• Jessica Rowe: It should be fine to vote on the changes and updates in wording then look into getting more information on the details of what the job duties of a laboratory supervisor may entail.</li> </ul> <p>Heather Reardon – move to approve with edits<br/> Jaspreet Gill – second<br/> Passed unanimously</p> |

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| <b>Agenda Topic</b>          | <b>5. Proposed Faculty Senate Committee Structure Change (Martin Schmidt)</b>  |
| <b>Action Taken</b>          | Info/Discussion  |
| <b>Summary of Discussion</b> | <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PDC committees will maintain current structure. Recommended that anything to do with post tenure be put into one committee (e.g., awards).</li> <li>• Elections/Bylaws committee still under consideration for consolidation.</li> <li>• Timeline for completion: end of spring start of fall term.</li> </ul> |

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| <b>Agenda Topic</b>          | <b>Public Comment</b>   |
| <b>Action Taken</b>          | Info  |
| <b>Summary of Discussion</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rachelle Bassen: College Council looking for policies on SLOs. Request that Geri Pope come by and present to faculty senate on updates to SLOs.</li> </ul> |

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| <b>Agenda Topic</b>                       | <b>Adjournment</b>                  |
| <b>Action Taken</b>                       | Unanimously Adjourned at 2:11 pm    |
| <b>Summary of Discussion</b>              | N/A                                 |
| <b>Assignments/Potential Agenda Items</b> | N/A                                 |
| <b>Comments/Information</b>               | Submitted by Patrick Bell, Recorder |