

## Faculty Senate Meeting

1 September 2023

Senators present: Kyle Mara, Brandon Field, Erin Reynolds, Ashley Carter, Peter Whiting, Nicholas Rhew, Shane White, Jessica Mason, Shannon Pritchard, Jiaying Liu, Guoyuan Huang, Todd Schroer, Susan Ely, Nancy Kovanic



Additional attendees: Shelly Blunt, Jason Hardgrave, Amy Chan Hilton, Jeffery Short

Held in BEC Boardroom

- Called to order: 2:35 pm
- Minutes from last meeting of the Spring, special meetings over summer, and retreat in the Fall. All the minutes were approved unanimously, with non-present members abstaining appropriately.
  - 28 April: Final meeting of the Spring semester
  - 2 June: Reviewed report of the *ad hoc* committee on instructor promotion.
  - 25 July: After Jason Hardgrave appointed as Interim Associate Provost, a special meeting was held to elect a new Faculty Senate Chair for this semester.
  - 18 August: Faculty Senate retreat; Vice Chair and Secretary for the year elected.
- Senate Chair report from Kyle:
  - New HR initiative regarding part-time (50-74%) employees will soon be eligible for fee waivers for their tuition.
  - Working with Dr. Rochon to get Town Hall organized. Aiming for period after January Board of Trustees meeting, but before Spring Break. Working with other governance groups for questions. Working to get this done annually.
  - Mayoral candidates will have a debate on campus; WNIN is hosting, and it is being organized by Matt Hanka. 7pm on Oct 18.
  - Enrollment updates: First time freshmen were up 2% from last year. Transfer students flat; Grad students up 3%. Continuing student (Spring-Fall “melt”) was down 3.8%.
  - New Chief Data Officer position will be posted soon.
  - Wellness Center Remodel is scheduled to be completed first quarter of 2024.
- Provost’s Report from Dr. Blunt:
  - Contract Assistant Professor and Clinical track charge: meeting with people and hoping to have the changes completed by the end of the Fall semester, with a hand book update in the spring, so they are in place for the Spring semester for faculty submitting portfolios in Fall 2024.

- TK-20 has been bought by Watermark; we are looking to see if we want to transition to the Watermark assessment tools.
- The tenure and promotion material is moving to Watermark.
- Banner 9 rollout is continuing, Banner 8 will not be open for grading in the Fall. The Registrar's Office and IT are still working on implementing some of the faculty requests for some functions that are not currently in Banner 9.
- Still working on Slate implementation. Admissions and Graduate Studies applications are through Slate. Planning to go live with the Student Success module in January. We will share updates as we get closer to that date.
- Carnegie Community-Engaged classification application for reclassification will open in January for us to reapply for that classification.
- HLC Quality initiative decided to be around career readiness and career preparation. Proposal will be sent to HLC for approval, and then the QI committee from last Spring will be reconfigured to lead this initiative.
- Retention rate: initial numbers is that we will be slightly down from last year. Plan to break it out by college and see what we can do strategically to improve student retention.
- UNIV 101 has the New Harmony trip on September 12<sup>th</sup>.

#### New Business:

- Robert's Rules Primer by Nick Rhew
  - Robert's Rules cheat sheet was distributed. Discussion of things that we can be doing more efficiently. The minutes of a previous meeting do not need to be approved by vote, they can be opened to correction and then they are assumed to be approved once corrections have ended.
- University Promotions Committee Annual Report
  - Thanks to the chair and to the members of committee for the work that was done in the spring on this committee.
  - One take away from the work of last semester was the vast amount of good work that is being done by faculty on this campus.
  - This committee's purview has changed, and this change should be communicated to all our colleagues.
  - Report was received.
- Charge 2023\_07\_SimplyToGo: Request to reinstate the "Simply to Go" eating area to encourage gathering, engagement, and community, as well as convenience for the students in HP.
  - Kyle reached out to Dining Services, and received a response from Rebecca Diamond that said the Simply To Go was not planned to be reopened, but in the second phase

of the HP renovations a mircomarket was planned, and is scheduled to be opening next Fall.

- It appears that the Byte-cooler in that building is stocked only sporadically.
- Senate would like Kyle to communicate to Sodexo and Steve Bridges' office with the concerns that the nursing students have and see what they can be done.
- They will also check about getting refrigerators and microwaves in the area.
- Charge was tabled unanimously.

Next meeting: 15 September, 2:30pm, BEC Boardroom.

- Meeting adjourned: 3:55 pm.

## Faculty Senate Subcommittee Annual Report

**Committee Name** University Promotions Committee

**Academic Year** 2022-23

**Current Committee Chair** Dr. Jason Hardgrave

**Chair Selected for Upcoming Academic Year**

**Committee Members**

Dr. Cathy Carey (Romain College) Cathy Carey

Dr. Wesley Durham (Liberal Arts) [Signature]

Dr. Sukanya Gupta (at large) Sukanya Gupta

Mrs. Emily Holt (Health Professions) Emily Holt

Dr. Rick Hudson (Pott College) Rick Hudson

Dr. Jessica Garces Jensen (at large) Jessica R Jensen

Mr. Peter Whiting (Library) Peter Whiting

Dr. Jason Hardgrave (substitute for Davis) Jason Hardgrave

Dr. Julian L. Davis (at large) absent \_\_\_\_\_

**Meeting Dates during current Academic Year**

3/2, 3/28, 3/29, 4/1, 4/2, 4/3

**Charges Considered this year**

None.

**Description of Committee Activities and Work product**

20 promotion portfolios reviewed. 8 for assistant to associate professor, 1 for clinical assistant to clinical associate professor. 10 for associate professor to professor, 1 for clinical associate professor to clinical professor.

**Actions taken by Committee**

Notification to applicants of receipt of promotion materials. Review of Portfolios. Voting on “exceeds”, “meets”, “does not meet” expectations in the categories of teaching, scholarship, practice, and service as appropriate. Forwarding of all decisions to the Provost. Notifications to applicants of committee decisions.

**Actions requested of Senate**

None.

# CHARGE TO THE USI FACULTY SENATE

## Formal Request for USI Faculty Senate Action

**Name:** Pamela Thomas (Optional)

**Date of Submission:** 08/18/23

**Name of Faculty Senate Representative:**

1. Ashley Carter
2. Erin Reynolds
3. Marilyn Ostendorf-alternate

**Complete the following items and submit this form to either your Faculty Senate Representative or to the Faculty Senate Chair for consideration by the Faculty Senate.**

**1. Charge Title:**

Simply to Go

**2. Background:**

Provide an explanation of the background and context for the proposed charge. What problem, issue, or experience prompts the proposal of the charge?

Students in the HP building and the Science building have expressed a need for a close place to grab a cup of coffee, both plain and flavored, tea, and a healthy snack such as a salad, and utilize the already existing lounge area near the former "Simply to Go" eating area. The aroma of coffee and fresh food is inviting to the senses and instills a atmosphere of gathering and campus community. By the time they walk to Starbucks as an example, it has taken their entire break and they miss the time to engage and socialize with peers.

**3. Action Requested and Desired Result:**

Specifically state what action you would like the Senate to take and the desired outcome that you would like to see.

Open the former "Simply to Go" from the hours of 7:30-2pm and offer healthy food items.

**4. Potential Resources:**

Provide any information that can help Faculty Senate fully address the charge. Attach additional documents if necessary.

We know there is a mental health crisis. Students need as much opportunity to connect and engage with others outside the classroom. Opening this fresh food snack area can lead to more student engagement.

**Items 5-7 are to be completed by Senate Chair or Secretary:**

**5. Senate Comments:**

**6. Action Taken by the Faculty Senate:**

**7. Action Taken by the Administration:**