

In Case You Missed It: Unofficial Recap of the Faculty Senate Meeting

These “ICYMI - meeting update” notes do not replace the formal Journal of the Faculty Senate that will be distributed later, and that will be approved at the next monthly meeting. Rather, these are notes and highlights from the perspective of FS Secretary Dave Hambright, with input from Chair-Elect Keri Kornelson and Chair Amy Bradshaw.

November 09, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m. by Chair Bradshaw. The Faculty Senate Journal for the regular meeting of 12 October 2020 was approved without revisions.

Announcements:

Chair Bradshaw:

- Announced the dates for future 2020 academic year meetings, noting that the 25 January meeting will be held only if needed.
- Announced that the College of International Studies is seeking short-term course proposals for the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 academic terms in Arezzo, Italy and Puebla, Mexico.
- Reported the death of faculty member Thordur Runolfsson (Electrical & Computer Engineering) on June 17, 2020.

Chair Bradshaw turned to the monthly Chair’s Report and asked for any questions or comments. There were none.

Chair Bradshaw then introduced the speaker for the day’s meeting, Chair Bradshaw thanked xxx for sharing this information to the Faculty Senate.

Chair Bradshaw then introduced Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students David Surratt who provided the Senate with a detailed overview of the Office of Student Affairs. Vice President Surratt spent a large portion of his overview describing Student Affairs’ role in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic on campus. After he fielded numerous questions from Senators, Chair Bradshaw thanked VP Surratt for speaking with the Senate.

Chair Bradshaw then introduced Interim Senior Vice President and Provost Jill Irvine who discussed changes to be implemented in the annual faculty evaluation process because of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as future changes in faculty evaluations as relating to marginalized faculty. She also announced that the freeze on faculty hiring has been lifted and that there will be two parallel RFRA processes: one conducted at the college level for regular faculty needs and one conducted through the Provost and VPRP offices focused on needs outlined in OUs strategic plan. Finally, Provost Irvine discussed briefly several issues, including faculty retention and her desire to maintain transparency in the Provost’s office and active two-way dialog between her office and the faculty. After addressing numerous questions and comments from Senators, Provost Irvine was thanked by Chair Bradshaw for speaking with the Faculty Senate.

Chair Bradshaw then briefly introduced the changes to the bylaws which were discussed at the October 12, 2020 meeting, that required a formal vote by the Senate. Motions were made for each change separately, seconded, and voted into action unanimously.

Chair Bradshaw presented a list of mid-year replacements to fill vacancies on both University councils, committees, and board as well as Faculty Senate committees. The replacements were approved unanimously by the Senate.

Chair Bradshaw introduced three proposals from the Faculty Compensation and Benefits Committee for discussion by the Senate. Senator Natale (Chair, FCBC) and Prof. Tassie Hirschfeld (member, FCBC) provided overview of the proposals and requested questions from the Faculty Senate over the next month. The Senate will vote on these proposals during the 12 December meeting.

Chair Bradshaw then moved to New Business, for which there was none.

A motion was made, and seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 5:09 p.m.

The official Faculty Senate Journal will be made available in draft form prior to the next regularly scheduled Faculty Senate meeting (14 December 2020), for approval during that meeting.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Hambright", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dave Hambright
Faculty Senate Secretary