

Drake University Faculty Senate January 31, 2018

President David Courard-Hauri called a regular meeting of the 2017-2018 Faculty Senate to order at 3:30 p.m. The following senators were present for all or part of the meeting: Dan Alexander, Robyn Cooper, David Courard-Hauri, Renee Cramer, Debra De Laet, Carrie Dunham-LaGree, Royce Fichtner, Lourdes Gutierrez Najera, Jerry Honts, Teri Koch, Jerrid Kruse, Sarah McCoy, Jennifer McCrickerd, Chip Miller, Craig Owens, Chuck Phillips, Dorothy Pisarski, Heidi Sleister, Mark Vitha, Melissa Weresh, and David Wright

Absent: Bengu Erguner-Tekinalp, Nancy Reincke, Elizabeth Robertson

The December 2017 minutes were approved.

President Martin Report:

President Martin indicated he has yet to present a draft of the Core Values to Senate Executive Committee. He wants to continue to refine and improve the draft this spring so as to present the Core Values to the Board of Trustees (BOT) during their April or June 2018 meetings. Senator Owens asked what change in practices might result as a consequence of the establishment of core values. President Martin indicated these will be more than just a poster up on a wall. His vision included the set of stated core values being used when goals are set and inclusion in established recognition systems.

Currently multiple experiences of phishing scams are needing to be mitigated and these incidents are expensive and challenging. He wants all persons present to be aware that Drake is a target and persons are falling for the scams.

Provost Mattison Report:

The launch of Drake On-line has experienced a larger than budgeted enrollment (14 students for a program budgeted at 4 students) and this is exciting, opened Provost Mattison. She continued with stating that student retention is a campus priority just as recruiting new students is a priority. She stated that retaining students is an ethical issue, too. She has recently met with the Deans and Associate Deans along with Associate Provost Melissa Sturm-Smith, Director of Institutional Research and Assessment Kevin Saunders and Data Analyst Mitchell Stearns to look at what data there is which can drive the programming needed to help students be successful. The College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences served as the test case for this presentation.

The Fall 2018 undergraduate applications and admits are strong and we now need to pivot these students and families to being tuition deposited. As there are multiple on campus events in the next weeks, Provost Mattison reminded the Senators that every chance to welcome guests to our campus is important.

Nominations for University Marshal and an Assistant Marshal are being solicited and needed by spring break.

And finally, she reminded the body that the next Campus Social is scheduled for Feb 6th.

President Courard-Hauri Report:

Two Town Hall meetings will be held (February 8th, Sussman Theatre, Olmsted and February 12th in Cline 206) to gather faculty input regarding current senate representation. A faculty survey is being planned on the topic also, which will help form the Senate conversations later in Spring 2018. President Courard-Hauri indicated the announcement of the meetings will include the set of known proposals. He also encouraged current senators to be involved in these sessions.

Finally, he admitted how much he has learned recently concerning the how sophisticated and specific the phishing scam emails have become. He acknowledged he has become so much more careful with his own email.

The Drake Curriculum Analysis Committee (DCAC) report discussion was opened by Senator Phillips, a DCAC member. He acknowledged the several committee members present including the Director of Institutional Research & Assessment (ORIA), Kevin Saunders. The report presented for Senate today is the latest AOI the committee has reviewed. Spring 2018 their work is based on the Quantitative AOI. The committee's process includes utilizing indirect measures (NSSE data, for example) and the time consuming work of examining student work. Also, included is a face to face review session. In addition to the assessment process is bringing together the faculty who actually teach the AOI. This has garnered good feedback. The act of simply getting persons together, sharing data and observations has brought about constructive two way discussions.

One observation has been that students may self-assess fairly high and their ratings are higher than their peers at other institutions, yet the faculty have not exactly seen (or assessed) the student work as high. There have been gaps in student and faculty perceptions.

The committee noted the students may reflect on the assignments yet not necessarily going as deep as the instructions would have expected the student to perform. The committee speculated the student may not see as deeply into the material and faculty discussions drew a conclusion that the assignments may need to draw the student to that deeper understanding. Mr. Saunders offered that when students were deficient in an understanding and staff further investigated it may have been that the student was not asked to (or believed they had not been asked) do the deeper work. Faculty have then sought ways to more clearly correlate an assignment to an outcome.

Senator Phillips directed the body to the DCAC recommendations which includes the creation of an online repository to help faculty. The content could include a glossary of terms for each AOI and teaching ideas.

Senator Pisarski shared that she was part of the process as an instructor and she appreciated the report and the process. Concerning the repository idea, she asked how the project might be created. The reply from Senator Phillips was that such an entity would be beyond the DCAC group. Associate Provost Art Sanders offered that he and DCAC Chair, Sandy Henry, have talked about the idea. He believes it fits with what Provost Mattison has asked him to provide faculty. Mr. Sanders indicated there may be a website available before the Fall 2018 semester and he is preparing for a faculty pilot project. When asked, Mr. Sanders indicated there is not anything specific for Faculty Senate to be involved in at this point, yet he is aware of the interest.

Recognizing that the Revised Drake Curriculum (RDC) town hall meetings contained comments about the lack of AOI assessment, several Senator voices wanted to know how to make the DCAC work more visible. Senator Phillips noted DCAC is charged with assessing and making recommendations and not with communicating. He offered that from his several years on the committee he knows the current process to be workable, scalable and wealth of material is gathered. He complimented the staff support from the ORIA.

Senator Gutierrez Najera stated she was one of the instructors who did not know she was teaching a particular AOI course and she believed if she'd known more before the course began, she would have changed her assignments. Senator DeLaet wanted the group to be cautious that there is an academic freedom line to remember when discussion the syllabus content. When asked, it was stated that less than 20% of the involved instructors participated in the workshops and that the full reports, for any of the assessed AOI's, had not been distributed to all involved instructors.

Senator McCrickerd and Phillips moved and seconded **motion 18: 04**

*To have the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment release the DCAC report
to faculty who teach the assessed AOI (Area of Inquiry) once the report is finished.*

The motion passed unopposed.

Expressions of thanks and "kudos" were offered to DCAC for their work.

Old Business: None Presented

New Business:

Senators Pisarski and Cramer moved and seconded **motion 18: 05**

Approve Spring Break 2019 as March 18 - March 22, 2019

Based on interest from academic departments which need to schedule student opportunities well in the future, Senator Phillips expressed it would be helpful to have the Spring Break dates brought to Senate earlier than the Spring semester. Secretary Geiger indicated an effort will be made to have the motion brought to Senate not later than the December meeting.

The motion passed with a voice vote.

Senators Phillips and Wright moved and seconded **motion 18:06**

Approve Statement of Principles proposed by the Faculty Senate Compensation Committee

The body was informed that Anisa Fornoff, Chair of the Compensation Committee, and several of the committee membership were present and willing to answer questions or concerns. Senator Wright stated he saw the setting of principles as “a great step forward”. Currently he knows the Senate Budget Committee is working closely with administration and the leadership. Establishing similar good working relationships via these principles is a good positive step.

The motion passed with a voice vote.

The meeting ended at 4:13 p.m.