

The meeting of the 2013-2014 Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by President De Laet. The following senators were present for all or part of the meeting: Alexander, Courard-Hauri, Esposito, Fejes, Leroux, McCarthy, Pisarski, Reed, L Reel Schmidt, Schmidt, Sidon, Simpson, Sleister, Soltis, Summerville, Vitha and Wright.

Absent: Dao, Swilky, Urness, Vandegrift

The December 2013 meeting minutes were accepted once three (non-contextual) errors were announced. The corrected minutes were posted on the Faculty Senate website prior to the Senate meeting.

President Maxwell report: President Maxwell was not in attendance due to University travel.

Provost Jones report:

Provost Jones started with a report from the most recent Board of Trustees meeting. She gave the Academic Affairs Committee an update of the initiative from last year in Board engagement. Drake University became a case study posted as a good example of involvement and engagement of Board members. Additionally, the February 2014 issue of the Board of Trustees magazine will include some of our work. With the assistance of Kevin Saunders and Craig Owens, she desires to keep the dialogue going. One next step will be the creation of an Academic Quality Primer designed to be helpful to new Board members. Also, a subcommittee will continue the work of identifying specific strategies to promote value for Board of Trustee engagement.

The Board received an update on retention and while 88% is good, she asked if Drake could get 93% or more. Based on the work done by the Institutional Research office and Academic Support staff, there have been subgroups identified which have lower retention percentages. It is neither the ACT score nor the Drake gpa which identifies students who leave Drake. The Provost has requested some Senate time to have Kevin Saunders, Director of Institutional Research, to share some retention data.

At the Board meeting, the Provost presented a multi-page set of “kudos” which she felt was well received.

Her report concluded with multiple updates:

- The TIG concerned with Professional and Graduate issues has been turned over to the Deans Council with a focus on executive education. One interest is to be able to present incentives for this program.

- Planning has started for the 2017-2018 accreditation visit. This effort will be led by Deputy Provost Rospond and Mr. Saunders. Provost Jones reminded the group that criteria and evaluation set up is different since the last visit. It is her intention to get the process imbedded into what we do, so that we know who we are and who we are becoming.

- Recently, NSSE data was presented to the Deans Council and there were some interesting outcomes. Mr. Saunders has been asked to take this out to the units. The Provost finds a relationship with various portions of the Strategic Plan. She stated it can be an exciting time if we are willing to stretch for the future.

- Various internal communications have been happening and while some have been good, the Provost monthly messages will be re-framed. She appreciated the comments about the video blog.

- The Quality Initiative has been accepted.

- August 15, 2014 will be the Learning Symposium, an all-day event, with different strands including: interdisciplinary and multi-cultural teaching, inclusive learning environment, international and global education, community and civic engagement. Also, she is excited the event will move beyond presentations to include poster and table top opportunities.

- August 22, 2014 will be the First Year Convocation held in the Knapp Center.

- Nominations for Levitt Mentor and Teacher are due in February.

With her final remarks, Provost Jones reminded all that when she is in her office, she invites visits – please come.

President DeLaet report:

Senator Ashley Sidon announced her faculty recital and invited all to attend on February 6th beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Sheslow Auditorium.

Sentwali Bakari, Dean of Students, Elizabeth Kennedy, University Counsel and Alysa Mozak, Coordinator for Sexual Violence Response and Healthy Relationship Promotion were introduced. Mr. Bakari indicated that this presentation to Senate would be informational and consultative concerning the Code of Student Conduct. He stated that about two years ago, substantial changes were made due to legal mandates and now new revisions are being made due to new federal mandates within existing laws, such as the Cleary Act, and documents from the Department of Education and Department of Justice. Ms. Kennedy presented the changes to the body. The changes are in red within the document provided on the Senate's website. Substantially, the additions provide legal definitional language for consent, substantial evidence, dating violence, ejaculation and stalking. Once feedback is received, the updated document will be on a future Senate agenda, hopefully in February.

President DeLaet gave an update on the curriculum review process. The original motion asked for a February report and she believes that there will be something to the Senate Executive Committee in February. The plan is to have a report to Senate in March. Senator Leroux, a member of UCC, agreed that a March reporting timeline is realistic for diagnostics from the committee.

Unfinished Business: none presented

New Business:

Senators Pisarski and Simpson moved and seconded **Motion 14-04:**

Motion to approve Spring Break 2015 as March 16-20, 2015

Without discussion the motion passed.

Senators Reel Schmidt and Vitha moved and seconded **Motion 14-05:**

Endorse standards for J-Term courses

Faculty Senate encourages academic units to develop standards for J-term courses consistent with the J-term Oversight Committee's Report on Guidelines for J-term Courses.

Associate Provost Art Sanders offered some background for the motion. He indicated the single most common question from Faculty to him concerning JTerm offerings is whether or not a topic is "an appropriate JTerm course". Based on a UCC conversation and efforts by the JTerm Oversight Committee a description was put together to help answer the question about offerings. He emphasized that this is not a change to college/school course approvals. It is meant to remind the faculty why the JTerm is offered. President DeLaet offered she notes the motion's language to be relatively soft with its use of "encourage" rather than "shall". Senator McCrickerd asked if "encourage" meant that academic units "must". She continued by noting that as the motion is stated, the topic might never come up within an academic unit. President DeLaet agreed with that assessment of the motion. Senator Simpson wondered if stronger language were used, if that would be seen as antagonistic. Senator Summerville noted he would take this to the Arts & Sciences Department Chairs for action. Mr. Sanders offered that the issue is not arising due to a problem, it is arising from questions. He believed that if the motion were passed by Senate, the JTerm Oversight Committee would share the language on a regular basis and those who pay attention will pay attention willingly. Senator Wright indicated he would use this in his unit as a reemphasis of the JTerm purpose. He voiced a need to keep the future JTerms in mind as there becomes a larger demand for offerings.

The motion passed with a voice vote.

The meeting closed at 4:25 p.m.

Secretary, Nancy Geiger