

The meeting of the 2015-2016 Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by President Bob Soltis. The following senators were present for all or part of the meeting: Klaus Bartschat, Maria Clapham, Robyn Cooper, David Courard-Hauri, Debra DeLaet, Carrie Dunham-LaGree, Todd Evans, Bruce Gilbert, Patrick Heaston, Adina Klipatrick, Craig Owens, Chuck Phillips, Nancy Reincke, Elizabeth Robertson, Eric Saylor, Joseph Schneider, LouAnn Simpson, Darcie Vandergrift, Melissa Weresh, Craige Wrenn, Bob Soltis

Absent: Dan Alexander, Maria Valdovinos

The February 2016 meeting minutes were accepted.

President Martin Report

The Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) has the next iteration on the website including a video and redrafted plan. The goal remains to have a plan to the Board of Trustees in April 2016 for their approval. The CIP will always be refined. One caveat is the April Board meeting agenda is quite full. President Martin asked for all present to be engaged with the document and process along with their colleagues. Feedback to the plan is very important. The CIP will be the home for many of the important campus discussions and initiatives such as Higher Learning Commission preparation and inclusivity actions.

With the departures in May 2016 of Tom Delahunt, Vice President for Admission and Student Financial Planning, and Laura Linn, Admission Director, an organizational restructure will proceed to separate Admission from Financial Planning. The provost office will include admission so that office oversees the student from recruit to graduation. A senior position in the provost office will work with Admission and there will be an effort to have a Registrar Office also. The Financial Planning Office will move under the Chief Financial Officer's supervision. This is a common structure which allows for a separation of the recruiting activities and the financial aid packaging activities yet recognizing these offices will continue to work closely together. President Martin concluded with indicating more news would be shared with campus after spring break such as more titled changes and reporting line adjustments. No additional positions will be included in those announcements and the reorganization will realize some monetary savings.

As an answer to a question, President Martin indicated the changes will become effective with the Provost's arrival in mid-July. He commented she has been involved in all these conversations.

Senator Owens inquired about the timeline for replacing any of the admission leadership. President Martin expects a more detail plan to be known in late March which includes the new job description for the position vacated by Ms. Linn.

Senator Bartschat acknowledged there should not be an immediate disaster in early May based on these key departures, yet wondered if President Martin was worried about the interim time period (over the summer) which is so critical in keeping the student and family engaged with Drake. President Martin indicated he is not worried as there will be an interim position and we have a set of great staff currently in Admission. He also noted the June Orientation sessions as well as Welcome Weekend are produced from the Office of the Provost. Provost Lenz added that a key time period will be the Iowa Private College Week in early August.

Interim Provost Lenz Report: Noting a full agenda, Provost Lenz indicated he did not have a report.

President Soltis Report: None presented.

Unfinished Business – None presented

New Business:

Evan Guest, Student Senate Representative, spoke about the recent Academic Affairs Dinner. The evening included four discussion tables centering on the topic of JTerm, professional development, global citizenship and general campus topics. He appreciated the evening and indicated it was one of the best in recent years.

President Soltis opened the JTerm discussion sharing how the topic came forward. There reports were supplied based on requests to be informed concerning the yearly student surveys results and a set of questions were submitted by the Senate

Executive Committee to Provost Lenz and Associate Provost Art Sanders. The eight questions and their answers were supplied to Senate and are posted to the Senate website. The highlights of the survey comments include how the JTerm is a great experience to have and helps students graduate on time. The students can take AOI, and perhaps take very tough courses as it is the only topic they are studying during those three weeks.

Room for improvement, in JTerm was also cited. Due to the reality that spring semester courses begin directly after some travel trips return, there is some jet lag. Questions of allowing first year students more chance to participate as well as athletes were offered including housing cost issues. Some ideas include having more practical skills courses (such as doing taxes); dining hall hours should be longer and more varied times available, and having professors gain awareness, somehow, of what students are interested in studying during JTerm. The student surveys include student comments which reflect that they worked harder than they thought they would need to during JTerm.

Within the documents, President Soltis noticed "costs have been equalized" and he asked what that meant. Mr. Sanders stated the summer and JTerm travel money for faculty have been made more equal. Thus, a travel seminar to the same location in May and in JTerm would be the same price (or reasonably so). Mr. Sanders indicated the administration is looking at ways to find out what courses and trips students want and to strive to not have any JTerm course cancelled. There was some discussion of the revenue calculation which has not changed since the first session. This may be a point for discussion in the near future. Senator Heaston suggested a more rational way, than using a four year old number, to calculate revenue be researched. He noted that JTerm has demand.

Senator Heaston asked about the statement regarding travel course capacity. Mr. Sanders stated it is the International Programs office capacity to help with travel courses. It is not the number of students rather the number of individual courses which can be serviced. Senator Courard-Hauri wondered if there is attrition issues related to first year students staying home so long between semesters. President Martin indicated from persons experience that indeed, students want to return to school.

Senator Bartschat noted the report states summer numbers are down. Is this net revenue and thus something which we should review? Provost Lenz agreed and indicated an interest in looking at summer to see if there is a relationship to JTerm. He noted summer numbers had been on the decline for a long time before JTerm started. He also mentioned that overall summer revenue is up due to graduate course offerings. Senator Klipatrick asked about the overlap in the type of courses offered in JTerm and summer. Are the same classes offered during each session? Provost Lenz indicated there is not much overlap. When comparing summer and JTerm, it was noted that summer is pricy and can be a barrier for students with interest in taking classes. Housing situations and various online course options can push students away from Drake summer courses.

Senator Heaston asked for clarification of the difference between seats taken and headcount. Student Director Kevin Moenkhaus replied the headcount is an unduplicated number of students and the seats taken is a count of all course enrollments.

Senate adjourned --- 4:19 p.m. Secretary, Nancy Geiger