

FACULTY SENATE

PLENARY MINUTES

DATE: March 27, 2024

TIME: 3:00 pm

LOCATION: MCOB 265

Attendance: Not available

- Call to Order –Quorum was not met.
- Approval of Minutes February 21, 2024 – Unable to approve due to lack of quorum
- Approval of Agenda – Unable to approve due to lack of quorum
- President’s Report (In writing)
 - Chief of Police Search – trying to schedule in person interviews, good pool of candidates (can Criminal Justice be included in the conversation once the interview process starts?)
 - VP for Research and Economic Development position has been posted
 - Senate Bill 129 has been approved, and Nick Lawkis will be at the next plenary meeting to answer any questions.
 - Revisit revisions from the Pay Equity Document (i.e., merit based on 50% to be eligible is in conflict with equity adjustment, as well as could chairs tell new hires whether they are being hired under a new pay base or whether they want to bring other faculty up to that same pay), also does a merit raise get wiped out when people are brought up with equity adjustment (.5 SD about department mean). The documents should be kept separate (merit and equity)
- Old Business
 - New FS Committee Charges
- Reports from the Senate Committees
 - Academic Development & Mentoring Committee: No report
 - Evaluation Committee:
 - Encourage to respond to R1 survey
 - Have caucus leaders give ideas for annual survey questions
 - Environmental Quality & Sustainability Committee:
 - Students sitting in cars to stay warm/cool
 - Faculty Salary & Benefits Committee: No report
 - Research & Creative Activities Committee: No report

- Teaching, Learning, & Technology Committee:
 - AI policy was discussed (use is not allowed unless expressly allowed by the faculty member, and faculty can use tools to check for AI)
 - Need for ILC to provide ongoing information re: useful AI tools (possibly they can set up a website with tools, ILC is offering an online course in April)
 - Turn-it In has an AI component
- University Planning Committee:
 - Nominations still open for partnership awards
- University Policies & Handbook Committee:
 - Review documents for Ombudsperson and comments for NTT faculty (Unable to proceed on discussion and voting due to lack of quorum).
 - Inconsistency across college bylaws/grad grievance, and members of committees should be on the University Academic Standards Committee.
 - There is a new clinical trials policy (not a handbook policy) through the College of medicine.
 - College of Education and Professional Studies office hours issues being looked into.
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee:
 - Will the name change due to SB 129?

- Reports from Caucus Leaders – No reports

- Reports from University Committees – No reports

- New Business
 - Chicago Principles of Free Speech Policy. Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) – The idea is free speech with only restrictions being if they would harm others. U of Chicago adopted these principles in 2015, and now over 100 have signed on to these principles.
 - This could start by being affirmed in senate (and demonstrate that we can affirm things before they “think about it”), then would go to the admin who would then take it to the board of trustees. This deals with both academic freedom and freedom of speech. A context statement along with handout will be provided to solicit feedback from faculty about how to proceed. The response from the senate body was that we could think about.

- Other Business
 - Request to send nominees for leadership positions in standing committee for next senate term.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Submitted by Susan Ferguson; edited by Vicki Tate