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September 28, 2021 University Senate Minutes

Abstract

Senate minutes, Provost Birdsell's address to the Senate

Keywords

Senate minutes, Provost Birdsell's address to the Senate, Standard VII



KEAN
UNIVERSITY SENATE –
FULL SENATE MEETING
AGENDA

September 28, 2021
2:15 p.m.-4:15 p.m.
HH 113

Senators in attendance:

•Ahlawat, •Anderson, •Boateng, •Brandwein, •Brown, •Connors, •Donovan, •Dowdell,
•Evans, •Farrokh, •Filardo, •Gover, •Gubi, •Halper, •Lynch, •Logue, •Mack (Zoom),
•Marks, •Mayhall (Zoom), •Moran, •Mulry, •Pintado-Casas, •Roebuck (Zoom), •Rosa,
•Rosen, •Sanchez, •Sargent, •Wetzel, •White, •Yucetepe

Student Representative:

Vacant

Guests:

[•=present ex=Excused absent=ab]

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Donovan at 2:23 pm

I. Minutes – June 24, 2021
A. Motion: Mulry
B. Second:
C. Approved
II. Curriculum Items for Notification and/or Vote-None
III. Old Business-
A. Course caps
1. No updates at this time; Joy M. will follow up with further information
B. Art History Program

1. Still working on resolving the issue of keeping the faculty at Kean
IV. New Business
A. Resolution on move to shared government and elected chairs
1. How will the new president and provost are going to handle this and what action will be taken on it. President and Provost support a move to chairs from executive Directors
2. Chair read resolution in support of shared governance and include faculty and university in the move to R2 status, including a traditional structure to move to chairs and away from Executive Directors and inclusion of the Senate in decision making
3. Chair opened the floor for discussion
a. Agree that this is a move in the right direction. What if EDs do not have a prior arrangement to move to faculty. Chair feels this is one of the items that the University Senate should be involved in
b. How can the lack of participation in commencement with the move to chairs from EDs. Chair-Explore best practices at other universities including at Baruch where Dr. Birdsell has come from
c. Encouraged about inclusion in the process. There may be tendencies to revert back to the old ways. This is a process that the faculty wants to be involved in and should be involved in.
d. Faculty are assigned to work during the summer for coverage as an answer to the concern about the end of the semester and into the summer.
e. It was noted that the chair had no input into the ad for faculty in BPM and he also noted that the ad was posted earlier to address the need for a pool of quality faculty. Provided the example that the faculty were not part of the discussion about the design of the Hynes Building
f. Chair is encouraged about Dr. Birdsell. Chair researched Dr. Birdsell and received very positive feedback
4. Motion on resolution: Ahlawat
5. Second: Lynch
6. Approved, unanimous with 2 abstentions: Roebuck and Farrokh
B. Resolution on Art History
1. Discussion about resolution content
2. Discussion about the importance of having tenured faculty. One Senator feels this is a union issue that should not be included in the resolution but another Senator believes tenure is about academic freedom
3. Tenured faculty guide, shepherd and protect programs which is needed to establish programs
4. The general issue is why we are working on the resolution
5. Balance of resolution per chair: We believe art historians need to continue to run the program because no program should not exist without tenured faculty. The faculty make the program
6. M. Halper-not maintaining tenured faculty is antithetical to maintaining a program and can lead to loss of accreditation
7. Resolution to support the three faculty remaining at Kean to run the program because the Senate is not in favor of having a program without tenured faculty.
8. Board may have approved to continue the program but with retrenchment of the faculty

9. Resolution of 2016 eliminated major in favor of a minor in Art History
10. Sounds like the AH situation is an element of all of the other issues and concerns
11. Include the extended statement about AH from the resolution of 2020
12. What is the process for updating Dr. Birdsell in terms of history of various concerns. Joy M. stated that he can be updated as needed
13. Feeling that the language is not clear because it is referred to as a program rather than a minor
14. Getting rid of majors (shift to minors) appears to be used to get rid of faculty
15. Some feel that a more thoughtful approach may be necessary
16. Need to support the AH faculty and important to stress that we do value tenure
17. Need to complete and vote on the resolution today to show support for colleagues
18. The AH faculty are valuable to the university
19. Revised resolution was read by Co-Chair
20. Resolution is approved unanimously
C. Resolution on structural changes without faculty input
1. Support for the idea of structural changes that include faculty input
2. Motion: Halper
3. Second: Lynch
4. Passed unanimously
D. UCC Revisions:
1. Already approved programs do not need any additional review or approvals to provide their courses or programs in other teaching modalities
a. Resolution to add to UCC Manual
1. Revision Suggestion: Already approved programs do not need any additional review or approvals to provide their programs in other teaching modalities (specifically referring to online programs and courses within existing programs)
2. Delivery method is secondary
3. Chair explained the process for developing online programs and courses
4. Former UCC chair, Don Marks explained using the online MSW program- they did not need to have the program approved again because it's going to be offered online
5. Joy M. further notes that the Dean will have input regarding online programming
6. Motion: Matthew Halper
7. Second: Don Marks
8. Approved
2. Any proposed program changes must have a departmental faculty majority affirmative vote, such to be recorded on the transmittal and, a sign-off for Affected Programs, the same as Curriculum proposals.
a. Consensus regarding the fact that language should apply specifically to programs
b. Motion:
c. Second:
d. Approved unanimously
E. Dr. Birdsell and the relationship with, and reports from, the College Officers

1. Resolutions that passed in this meeting were re-read for Dr. Birdsell
2. Provided background about what he is all about
3. Discussed agenda-Middle States and drafts of study and working on one document to soon be released to the campus community within the week. Meeting will be held for feedback. Seeking a lot of participation. Necessary for campus to be forthcoming and include the community. Team will be on campus April 2022
4. Four issues Dr. Birdsell involved with beyond the academic side-
a. Academic side needs to be in forefront in terms of hiring faculty to look more like the rest of academia
i. Academic hiring timeline has changed to earlier in the process to comport with usual academic practice-very important change
ii. Most of the best candidates are gone if you start a search in the spring for the fall. Difficult to achieve diversity and spread
iii. Interview process that looks more like the rest of academia. The first interview will be via Zoom and the finalists (3) will come to campus and stay in a local hotel and meals and one meal with Kean faculty. They will do a teaching presentation as well
b. In conjunction with the union, the VPAA has been working on incorporating more feedback, more clearly articulated goals, external reviews (other disciplines or other professional organizations related to the discipline) into the RTP process. A way to advertise to other scholars outside of Kean University
c. Reversion to a Chair structure to elevate faculty involvement in how operations are managed-makes Kean look more like the rest of academia
i. Hold everyone accountable for shared goals-we want to keep students at Kean and emphasizes shared governance; also need to work at program level to hold people accountable, improve student graduation rates, which can be achieved, in part, by ii below
ii. Extracurricular support for students (tutoring, internships, collaborative resources - in other words, experiences adjacent to classroom experiences – supports student success
d. Integrated data systems-the numbers should be the same; we should know our students; reports should be transparent to the public. Right now the numbers don't match from IR to programs; Salvatore is working with HR, IR, and coordinating numbers and data cycles, datasets, etc. All of this is needed in service of achieving R2 status - to boost research, productivity
i. Important to know how successful we are
5. Three key items/goals
a. Boost research from arrival on campus
b. Accelerated student outcomes-to include equity so that students can excel in civic life, get jobs
c. Identify cluster hiring initiatives around research every three to four years- Utilize Kean's assets (WKU, Kean@OCC and Skylands). Kean@OCC is being underutilized. Explore combining disciplines; for example Barnegat Bay as estuary project - project in coastal resilience, deteriorating water systems, sea level rise: combination of marine science, engineering, management, finance, sociology, public policy. The new federal infrastructure bill could fund the use of Kean Ocean in service of an interdisciplinary project. Could combine the Barnegat Bay Coalition, US EPA and NJ DEP. WKU is interested

in gerontology - could use the social sciences, literature, history, etc. to create fundable scholarly products, community.
d. A more rewarding Kean. Make every legislator smile in Trenton to keep Kean on the mind of those that care. - focus on public problems, small business, benefits of science, and career acceleration.
6. Believes in shared governance; agrees to a continued presence of central administrators at Senate meetings, with reports from key offices at least once a year, enrollment management twice a year.
F. Online teaching in-load not discussed
G. Policy on Social Media Harassment - not discussed
H. Simple Syllabus - not discussed

V. Next Meetings

- A. Executive Committee Meeting - October 5, 2021 – MSC 228 at 2:15 p.m.
- B. Full Senate Meeting – October 12, 2021 – HH 113 at 2:15 p.m.