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## Dalton State Faculty Senate: Minutes of Sept 13, 2018, Meeting

### Members Present:

Janet Johnson (proxy for Andrea Ridley), Matt Hipps (Senate President), Gene Powers, Deb Richardson, Gail Ward, Donna Bledsoe, Jane Taylor, Christian Griggs, Jeff Stanley, Jonathan Gullledge, Cathy Hunsicker, Travis McKie-Voerste, Amy Mendes, Lydia Postell, Tami Tomasello, Amy Burger, Pat Chute (Provost), Susan Burran, Norm Desrosier, Nick, Gewecke, Tim Hawkins, Jean Johnson, Annabelle McKie-Voerste, Hussein Mohamed, Samantha Blair, Mike Hilgemann, Garen Evans, Lorraine Gardiner, Ben Laughter, Bob Haverland, Forrest Blackbourn (guest), Mike Hoff (guest)

### I. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

Senate president Matt Hipps called the meeting to order at 3:18 and established that a quorum was present. He asked for approval of the minutes of the April 12, 2018 meeting; Ben Laughter moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded. Dr. Chute called attention to an unspecified typo in the minutes. The minutes with appropriate correction of typo when specified were approved by voice vote.

## II. State of Faculty Senate

### a. Direction and Tone

Senate President Matt Hipps opened with a statement on his vision for the role of Faculty Senate in the coming year. He thanked the officers of the previous years for their leadership. He wanted to make sure that the Faculty Senate stood by its role to enrich the faculty and be advocates for faculty. He wanted to stress the importance of unity between faculty of different schools and not having adversarial relationships with other branches of the college.

### b. Shared Governance

Matt Hipps also addressed the question of shared governance. He wants the Faculty Senate to make sure it has a voice in decision and policy making for the college. He wants to see more faculty involvement in SGA and Staff Council. We also need more transparency in what the various committees are doing and making sure committee meeting minutes are posted and available to all.

A short discussion followed.

## III. Academic Calendar

Matt Hipps announced that Dr. Jodi Johnson would like faculty input on the academic calendar for the next two years, but it is needed by next week!

Discussion followed about whether the Calendar Committee still exists and why it does not operate to establish the academic calendar. Mike Hoff suggested it does still exist. Dr. Chute mentioned that many of the particulars of the academic calendar, such as enrollment and withdrawal dates, were probably not of interest to the faculty. The problem of early exams for graduating seniors was brought up. Many who spoke pointed out the unfairness and stress on seniors in having early exams at a critical time in their college career. A discussion followed about the need to print diplomas for the graduation ceremony as the reason for early grades. There was an assertion that students don't care whether they get an actual diploma at the graduation ceremony, but this was challenged as something we do not know for certain. A motion was made to organize a committee to study the issue of exam dates, due dates for

grades, student opinions on getting paper diplomas, and the graduation ceremony. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

#### IV. Committee Composition

Matt Hipps made announcements on which Faculty Senate committees still require people to serve and solicited volunteers. If not enough volunteers can be found, Matt will assign senators to committees as needed.

Matt then asked Dr. Chute to make some remarks about the Tenure and Promotion Committee. Dr. Chute made a suggestion about decreasing the size of the committee to make the committee more manageable. She suggested two members from STM, two from Liberal Arts, one from Education, one from Business, and one from Health Professions. Discussion followed about how Dr. Chute's suggested committee structure would be substantially different from the present make-up of the committee. Some felt that a larger committee meant that there was a better chance that at least some members would be doing an in-depth job of evaluating portfolios. The matter was referred to the Faculty Welfare Committee.

#### V. Committee Priorities

##### a. Faculty Development

Due to a continuing lack of CAE activities, Christian Griggs wanted feedback on whether there should be another Bold Talks type of symposium this year. Cathy Hunsicker asked if it would be possible to have a standing Book/Journal Club for interested participants. Dr. Chute explained about the Chancellor's Scholars as a possible means of funding professional development. Matt Hipps wants the committee to explore faculty participation in civic engagements activities sponsored by the college.

##### b. Faculty Evaluation

The Faculty Evaluation committee will be collecting data on the new evaluation manual and process approved last year. There are sure to be problems and the committee needs to be

aware of issues so that inevitable adjustments can be made in an equitable manner. The Student Evaluation form/questions were discussed. The committee will also look at this issue.

#### c. Faculty Welfare

Last year the committee was looking into the question of overloads. Matt Hipps asked Dr. Chute to speak on the policy of teaching eCore and eMajor classes. Dr. Chute has produced a draft document on an overload policy tied to student evaluation numbers and response rate. The draft document will be emailed to all senators. Matt Hipps also brought up the per diem rules and their lack of consistency across campus.

#### VI. The Honors Program

Dr. Forrest Blackbourn was invited to speak about the inauguration of the Honors program. Dr. Blackbourn said there were 19 students in the initial cohort of honors students and 8 faculty teaching honors courses in the fall with more to come in the spring. He invited everyone who was interested in teaching an honors course to contact him. Discussion of the program, honors course designation of classes, and how honors classes are organized followed.

#### VII. New Business

Dr. Chute reminded faculty that they should have alternate assignments available online in the unlikely event that the college closes as a result of Hurricane Florence. Information on how to prepare ADA compliant classroom resources was requested. There is an Access Coordinator in every school. They can be contacted for assistance.

#### VIII. Adjournment and Next Meeting

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:01 pm. The next senate meeting is scheduled for Oct 11, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean M Johnson, Senate secretary