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Dalton State Faculty Senate: Minutes of Oct 11, 2018, Meeting

Members Present:

Andrea Ridley, Matt Higgs (Senate President), Deb Richardson, Gail Ward, Donna Bledsoe, Jane Taylor, Cecile de Rocher, Baogang Guo, Jeff Stanley, Jonathan Gullledge, Cathy Hunsicker, Alicia Briganti (proxy for Travis McKie-Voerste), Amy Mendes, Lydia Postell, Amy Burger, Susan Burran, Nick, Gewecke, Tim Hawkins, Jean Johnson, Annabelle McKie-Voerste, Hussein Mohamed, Samantha Blair, Mike Hilgemann, Lorraine Gardiner, Ben Laughter, Bob Haverland, Lorena Sins (guest)

I. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

Senate president Matt Higgs called the meeting to order at 3:17 and established that a quorum was present. He asked for approval of the minutes of the Sept 13, 2018 meeting; Ben Laughter moved to approve the revised minutes. The motion was seconded. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

II. Overload Policy

Senate President Matt Higgs opened by presenting two proposals regarding an overload policy, one from Dr. Chute and the other from the Faculty Senate Welfare Committee. Discussion followed concerning both proposals. Many Senators had questions about how and why Dr. Chute's proposal was conceived and formulated. There were other questions about some of the

details in both proposals. One specific question had to do with response rates on student evaluations. Another had to do with the phrase “with first commitment to DSC.” There was a general dislike of both policies as punitive and taking away income from faculty who are already acknowledged as underpaid. The policies do not take into account the data provided by Dr. Mike Hoff showing that there is no correlation between overall performance of those teaching overloads for DSC/eCore and the number of overloads they teach. The policies are also not aligned with Board of Regents policy.

As a result, Annabelle McKie-Voerste made a motion to reject the Welfare Committee’s proposal. The motion was seconded and carried by hand vote.

Discussion continued concerning Dr. Chute’s original policy proposal. One main objection to this proposal had to do with the response rates on student evaluations. Senators were confused on why response rate had anything to do with teaching overloads and wanted clarification from Dr. Chute on why this was a part of the proposal. Matt Hipps informed the group that the Senate would be required to send a formal memorandum to Dr. Chute if the proposal was rejected.

Cathy Hunsicker made a motion to reject Dr. Chute’s overload policy. The motion was seconded and carried by hand vote.

Matt Hipps said he would write the formal statement to send to Dr. Chute informing her of the Senate’s vote and asking for clarification and justification of the overload policy.

As a result of further discussion, many Senators wanted to revisit the Welfare Committee’s proposal.

Nick Gewecke made a motion to reconsider the rejection of the Welfare Committee’s proposal. The motion was seconded and carried by hand vote.

Amy Mendes made a motion to send the proposal back to the Welfare Committee for further revision. The motion was seconded and carried by hand vote.

III. Statutes and By-laws

Matt Hipps presented revisions needed in the college by-laws due to changes in the Board of Regents language. The changes are mostly minor and make no change to the intentions of the

statutes passed by the Senate and full faculty in April 2018. The most significant change has to do with changing the words “educational process” to “learning environment.”

Ben Laughter made a motion to update the by-laws and statutes to conform to the new Board of Regents language. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

IV. Faculty Evaluation Manual

Matt Higgs also presented changes needed to the Faculty Evaluation Manual. The present language allows schools to make changes in standards at the end of each year. The revised language would require schools to send any changes to the Faculty Evaluation Committee for approval and to make certain they conform to Board of Regents policy.

V. Committee Reports

a. Strategic Plan Oversight Committee

Susan Burran explained that the college is one year behind in the current strategic plan, so a new strategic plan will also be implemented one year later than planned.

b. HSI Committee

Dr. Samantha Blair spoke of how the committee is working on writing grants for federal funding of planned initiatives. The committee will be soliciting ideas from all schools on how to invest federal grants to improve student success.

VI. New Business

Suggestions of topics for future discussion were as follows:

- a. Funding for travel and equity across campus of how funds are apportioned.
- b. Looking into how student fees are spent.
- c. Overload pay

VII. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The next Senate meeting is scheduled for Nov 8. Matt Hipps asked to move the meeting to Nov 15 as he cannot attend on the 8th. **A motion was made to move the next meeting to Nov 15.**

The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean M Johnson, Senate secretary