



Faculty Senate Meeting Notes
January 26, 2022

I. Call to order

Larry Smith called to order the regular meeting of the Snow College Faculty Senate at 3:30 p.m., January 26, 2022. The Senate met face-to-face in the Noyes, Academy Room with Zoom video conferencing available.

II. Roll Call

Senate Members: Senate President Larry Smith, Senate Vice President Jed Rasmussen, Matt Gowans, Jacob Thomas, Weston Jamison, Alan Christensen, Dennis Schugk, Sandra Cox, David Fullmer, Adam Burningham, Faculty Association President Garth Sorenson, Student Representative Jade Douglas, Senate Parliamentarian Erick Faatz, senator-elect Trent Fawcett

Others: Provost Melanie Jenkins, Assistant Provost Kade Parry, Dean David Allred, Dean Michael Huff, Dean Kevin Sorensen, Dean Michael Brenchley, Faculty Association Vice President Sheryl Bodrero

III. Minutes Approval

A. Minutes approved for November 17, 2021. Motion made by J. Thomas, second by G. Sorenson with a unanimous vote of approval.

IV. Opening and Informational Items

A. Welcome from L. Smith especially of members of the Deans Council.

B. Division senator election reminder.

C. Review the Reduction in Force and Financial Exigencies Policy 319 and Return to Work Policy and Form. Send feedback to Brent Baxter.

V. Good News and Committee Reports

A. A & T Committee: M. Gowans indicated that they met this week. They are nearly finished with regular business.

B. Curriculum Committee: S. Cox indicated that the Curriculum Committee is reviewing new four-year degree proposals.

C. Teaching and Learning Center Committee: A. Christensen encourages all faculty members to attend new faculty development tools orientations February 1 and 3, 2022.

D. Professional Track Committee: No report.

E. Global Engagement Committee: W. Jamison indicated that they are hosting an online conference instead of meeting face-to-face. The committee is continuing to organize the newly formed Diversity, Inclusion and Globalization (DIG) Committee. **Wes will continue as a senator for the Social and Behavioral Sciences Division.**

F. Honors Committee: J. Thomas reported that they are meeting with concurrent enrollment personnel regarding Honors Program recruiting.

G. Library Committee: J. Rasmussen indicated that they are having a difficult time finding a regular meeting time. **Trent Fawcett will be the new senate representative for the Natural Sciences and Mathematics Division.**

H. Service Learning Committee: D. Schugk reported that the Service Learning program is functioning well.

I. Faculty Association: G. Sorenson indicated no report.

J. Adjunct Information: A. Burningham indicated that adjuncts report that there is a lot of extra work because of Covid related issues. There have been significant issues with the adjunct pay system especially with the Adobe signature software. Hopefully the problems are solved.

K. Student Information: J. Douglas indicated that student government is adapting to the new Covid situation. They are continuing with food giveaways to keep students happy.

L. Ad Hoc/Other:

1. Provost Jenkins reported that General Education and Curriculum Committee agendas will be published on their respective web sites.

2. D. Fullmer reported that he is recovering from pneumonia and that their division is working with difficulties related to Covid.

VI. Senate Business

A. Academic Freedom Now Article Discussion "Free Speech Is Not an Academic Value" pp. 37-41.

1. Experts in disciplines should be respected in disciplines.

2. Accuracy of speech and relevance are academic matters.

3. Scientific thought should serve as a way of knowing.

4. What we know as fact has changed recently: "alternative facts."

5. Sometimes it comes down to the question, whom do you believe?

B. Senate bylaws revision report tabled.

C. Shared Governance Discussion

1. An organizational chart might be important.

2. There is a need to focus on good governance for all concerned parties with clearly defined roles and responsibilities.

3. The requirement for a faculty senate and/or faculty association at Utah institutions of higher education is clearly spelled out in Board or Regents Policy R223.

4. The Faculty Senate is the voice of all faculty members.

5. The relationship between the Snow College Faculty Senate, Provosts Office, Deans Council and Board of Trustees needs to be clarified.

6. What does it mean when we say that the faculty owns the curriculum? Are committees of the Senate the mechanism for faculty involvement? The relationship between committees, the Senate, and the Provosts Office needs clearer definition. It has been reported that some committees of the Senate are not happy with their relationship with the Senate.

7. How can a positive relationship be developed between the Senate and the Deans Council? The lines of communication need to be opened between the two groups. Would liaisons from the Deans Council to the Senate and from the Senate to the Deans Council be helpful? The work of these groups and related committees is very closely interconnected, but a committee structure is not as well interconnected.

8. A subcommittee made up of a small number of deans and senators could come up with possible models for future debate. Senate members and Deans Council members have already developed some draft models that could be examined.

9. In nearly every Senate meeting, committee representatives report to the Senate body. At times these reports might be too brief. This could also be the case with committee representative reports to respective divisions. Written reports sent to division members can save time in meetings.

10. Recently, each committee has been invited as a whole to meet with the Senate once per year in order to clarify the roles of committees, offer Senate support and answer questions from committee members. The ultimate goal is getting information to and from the faculty. Updating

committee web sites with at a minimum a roster and bylaws/constitutions has been encouraged. Some committees are now posting agendas too.

11. Where does the College Council fit in the Snow College organization? The Council reviews work from other areas of the college at an institutional level. Usually reviewed items then go to the Board of Trustees (B of T) for approval, but it is not always clear what needs B of T approval.

12. Some senators are/have been confused by their roles and the role of the Senate in relation to other college entities. The Senate is an advocate for the faculty. We can review and outline our roles at Snow on a regular basis. Other institutions' senates are searching for their roles too. Senators and committee members should familiarize themselves with bylaws/constitutions and other organization related documents.

13. The Senate's role pertaining to the Deans Council and Provosts Office is not always clear. We all need to work from common values of recognition of roles, respect, trust and mutual assistance.

14. J. Thomas made a motion with a second by J. Rasmussen to form a subcommittee to review an organizational model for shared governance including expanded lines of communication and possible liaisons between the Faculty Senate and Deans Council. Unanimous vote of approval. The conversation continued with subcommittee nominations of M. Gowans (senator), J. Rasmussen (senator and subcommittee lead), A. Christensen (senator), M. Brenchley (dean), J. Olsen (dean), David Allred (dean), and E. Faatz (recorder).

President Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

The next regular meeting 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 9, 2022.

Minutes submitted by Erick Faatz

Revised 2/7/2022

Final minutes approved 2/9/2022