

Drake University Faculty Senate Minutes

February 3, 2021

President Shelley Fairbairn called the regular meeting of the FY21 Faculty Senate to order at 3:30 pm, Wednesday, February 3, 2021. The following senators were present for all or part of the meeting: Natalie Banta Lynner, Klaus Bartschat, Michelle Bottenberg, Megan Brown, Dan Chibnall, Renée Cramer, Debra DeLaet, Matt Dore, Catherine Gillespie, Anisa Hansen, Matthew Hayden, Sandy Henry, Paul Judd, Kevin Lam, Peter Levi, Yasmina Madden, Joan McAlister, Lynn McCool, Erik Maki, Jimmy Senteza, Priya Shenoy, Ashley Sidon, Ron Torry, Jill VanWyke, Neil Ward, Matthew Zwier, Shelley Fairbairn, and Carrie Dunham-LaGree.

The December 2020 minutes were approved on a voice vote. Motion by Catherine Gillespie, seconded by Matthew Zwier.

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College/School Announcement

- SJMC
 - Drake SJMC is currently in first place in the Hearst Journalism intercollegiate writing competition, which will conclude in June.
 - Junior-level students participated in an audit on law enforcement use of body cameras. Drake students contributed to newspaper reports currently being published.
- CPHS
 - Partnership with HyVee and the Harkin Center to administer COVID-19 vaccinations. Over 1500 doses have been administered, with 31 CPHS students completing experiential learning.
 - CPHS is also taking part in the move-in COVID testing, testing 510 students on Saturday and 314 on Sunday.
- AS – Student Elijah Rockhold is a semi-finalist for a Fullbright English teaching assistantship in France.

President Martin's report

- **Budgets**

- **FY21 Budget**

- In November, the spend rate was at 41% (6 months in, a little less than half in spend rate).
 - Helped by distribution for the second COVID-19 relief package, approved at the end of the Trump Administration. Drake received \$2.5 million. The first package was distributed 50/50 between the institution and students. It was anticipated this package would be the same. However, this package directed Drake to spend the *same amount* on student relief as was spent in the first package, and the rest was for institutional relief. That language means the institutional portion is \$700,000 to the good
 - The Biden COVID-19 relief package at first left out private higher education institutions, but that has been rectified. That package has not been finalized or distributed yet.
 - Drake will be able to stop salary reductions as of March 1.
 - Still monitoring retirement contributions. No decision has been made as yet.
 - Administration is not trying to generate a surplus, but is trying to balance the budget.

- **FY22 Budget**

- \$7.5 million deficit is forecast, and administration is working to bring that down.
 - Built on 750 incoming class. Admission numbers are strong at this point.
 - Board of Trustees has committed to a deficit budget.

- **COVID Relief for students**

- \$1.1 million to be distributed to students
 - Developed plan to distribute to students based on the Estimated Family Contribution
 - Will begin going out to students next week

- **Campaign**

- Between now and June a committee is working to build out the case for campaign, set priorities and goals
 - Work starting in Advancement – engaging with major donors in advance
 - 160/90 will help with outreach to stakeholders
 - Full launch in October

- **Iowa Legislature**

- Bill pending that requires any law faculty teaching for more than 2 years to be licensed to practice law in Iowa. This would make Iowa the only state in US with such a law. Drake and the University of Iowa law schools would be affected and are lobbying against the bill. President Martin does not expect the bill to pass.
 - Anti-mask bill would greatly undermine Drake's ability to control the virus in our community and participating in NCAA sports. If this bill is enacted, it becomes effective immediately. President Martin is having conversations with bill author. *From Chat: House File 162 - Rep Joe Mitchell*

Provost Mattison's report

Provost Mattison acknowledge the passing of Curt Cardwell, associate professor of history.

- **Academic Financial Analysis (AFA)**
 - Provided a brief overview
 - Supports the stewardship of human and financial resources
 - Not designed for comparing college/schools or programs to one-another

Report from President Fairbairn

- Mis-numbered motions from the fall have been corrected to reflect the 21-xx numbering system.
- The report from the Ad Hoc Committee for J-term and Summer Instructional Time has been placed on file, as its recommendations for Senate have already been acted upon.
- The report from DCAC has been placed on file as its recommendations do not require Senate action.
- Student Senate Report: Kody Craddick, Academic Affairs Senator
 - Students are ready to get back and get going
 - Student Senate discussed a controversy around Twitter posts, and student concerns about academic bias have been advanced to Academic Affairs.
 - There will be an expansion of tutoring on campus and in the community, funded through Student Senate

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

- 21-07: Motion to accept the 2024-2025 academic calendar - Motion by Dan Chibnall, seconded by Jill VanWyke, and approved on a voice vote
- Motion to suspend Robert's Rules of Order during discussion – Motion by Shelley Fairbairn, seconded by Jimmy Senteza, and approved on voice vote
- **Discussion: Allowing first-year students to enroll in J-term courses**
 - Background information provided in separate document
 - Overall budget concerns and AFA need to be part of the conversation about expanding J-term.
 - This year FY students were allowed to take J-term, as a pandemic policy. If this is to become permanent, Faculty Senate needs to approve the change.
 - The J-term budget had a large infusion for academic support a couple of years ago. The program gave back much of that last year for pandemic purposes. Money will be restored to the J-term budget next year.
 - Now we have a sense of how much it would cost to allow FY students to take J-term. Unless we have way more J-term courses next year, we can cover salaries within the current budget.

- The only additional money needed is what it would take to open the 1st year residence halls during January. The J-term oversight committee has been looking at this for a while. The estimate for this is about \$60,000. The J-term committee is putting in a critical needs request for this.
- J-term will help with retention and recruiting of FY students. The sooner we know we can do this, the easier it will be for registrar, deans, faculty, etc.
- International Office is recommending that current travel programs not be allowed for FY students. That office will work with faculty to develop FY travel seminars.
- Q: Why couldn't FY students take J-term in the first place? What has changed since then to make this more appealing now? Art Sanders: Initial proposal was going to allow FY, but concern among some faculty regarding logistics. Registration is in spring, so the incoming FY students were not even enrolled yet. Now we've seen it can work. There were also serious budget issues, but now has more funding for instruction than in the past.
- Concern: Not concerned about budget, but about revenue implications. There are solid academic arguments to open it up to FY students, but concerned about offering more and more classes, and the increased salaries needed. Asset for retention and recruitment. Do we have hard estimates about money we bring in and if they are worth the expenditures?
 - Sue Mattison: There is no revenue – no income with J-term. There is a budget line for J-term from regular tuition. The biggest arguments in favor of opening J-term to FY students are the academic benefits. Don't know that we've captured retention data.
- At next meeting can share the percent of FY students who took J-term, and how much more it cost.
- Already know that the cost of instruction, did not cost more than already allocated. Only new money needed is the cost of the FY residence halls, about \$60,000. Tuition money is already allocated, and a portion is allocated to J-term.
- It is the perception of both students and faculty that having FY students take part was a worthwhile experience
- For FY students many of the offered courses were courses with a high rate of D or F grades, or Withdrew (DFW). This allowed students to move on in their programs in spring semester.
- There is a difference between creating new FY experiences, and allowing FY students to fill out classes where space is available.
- Our Mission is to produce strong global citizens. CPHS students don't get the option to travel unless it's a J-term. Allowing FY students in opens opportunity to more students. J-term also allows opportunities for exploration in concentrations and minors, builds community, and is a strong retention tool. Students feel very connected to faculty and one another in J-term experiences.
- Q: Is there feedback on how FY student did? Art Sanders: Surveys are in the hands of OIRA right now. We can pull whatever data is needed.
- Concern: Encouraging faculty to have J-term a regular part of their course load means there will be fewer seats in semester classes. This will make it harder for students to get into the classes they need.
 - Sue Mattison: It has always been an option for faculty to use J-term as part of their regular course load. We've never had more than 4 faculty members do this. It's totally up to them.
 - *From Chat: There are two faculty members in English who prefer a course reduction for J-Term rather than salary. The department has a policy so that we don't get too many reassignments in one semester. If anyone ever wants to see that policy, please email me. (Megan Brown)*
 - *From Chat: Finding a way to incentivize faculty to do this as part of load is one of the recommendations in the ad hoc committee's document regarding J-term and summer.*

It hasn't been acted upon.

- *From Chat: We included these classes where there is a high DFW rate this J-term. We are strategic in determining which courses to offer to ensure we aren't taking away from the fall and spring semester. Also, everyone gets paid if they don't select a course release for spring.*
- *Playing the role of a broken record here - just a reminder that the decision to include high DFW rate courses and strategic scheduling of J-term to enhance retention efforts is a recommendation of the ad hoc committee, that has not been taken up. In order to continue this practice, and also be in line with the resolution senate passed in creating J-term, Senate has to act.*
- Concerned about budget/critical needs requests. Art Sanders: As J-term increases in size, we ask for an increase in budget. If the critical need is granted, it will be part of budget in future.
- Concern about more money to pay for J-term salaries, and would like to see numbers as part of decision making process. Having numbers would help me understand the sustainability of this. Art Sanders: I have numbers, and you will be reassured.
- While understanding the need for retention and parachute courses for FY students, concerned there will be way more classes than are already offered, and concerned about budget. Art Sanders: – This year there was a strong push for courses for FY students.
- Q: This j-term salary expenditures: Did this take into account the travel courses that did **not** take place? Art Sanders: There is a separate budget for travel that is controlled by International.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 pm.