

# Drake University Faculty Senate Minutes

February 24, 2021

President Shelley Fairbairn called the regular meeting of the Faculty Senate to order at 3:30 pm, Wednesday, February 24, 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, Denise Hill, Jimmy Senteza, Priya Shenoy, Ashley Sidon, Ron Torry, Jill VanWyke, Shelley Fairbairn, and Carrie Dunham-LaGree.

The February 3 minutes were approved on a voice vote. Motion by Renée Cramer, seconded by Catherine Gillespie.

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## College/School Announcements

- CPHS: Student Isabelle Tharp received the Gloria Francke Scholarship from the [American Pharmacy Association Foundation](#).
- CPHS: Vaccinations have restarted at the Harkin Center, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of 1000 dosed will be administered from the Gregory & Suzie Glazer Burt Boy and Girls Club on Saturday, March 6. CPHS students and faculty have been working with Polk County and HyVee to organize and administer vaccines.
- Cowles: Hope Bibens, Political Papers Archivist, was interviewed on Iowa Public Radio's Talk of Iowa to discuss Iowa History Camp and the Johnny Bright Incident. <https://www.iowapublicradio.org/show/talk-of-iowa/2021-02-18/iowas-history-camp-goes-virtual-for-2021>
- Cowles: Senator Dan Chibnall, STEM Librarian, was asked to serve on the board of Science Iowa (formerly known as March for Science Iowa). The board works to get conversations about politics and science to the forefront of local, state, and national elections.
- [Global Citizen Forum](#): Drake is partnering with the University of KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa) to host a virtual conference on equity and inclusion in higher education March 3-5.
- [Catalyst Fund](#): Streaming a concert at the conclusion of the Global Citizen’s Forum to benefit the Catalyst Fund. Will feature Kevin Burt. Those in the Des Moines area can order grab-and-go meals

from Delicias by Lorena, to be picked up at the Olmsted Center prior to the concert. Deadline for ordering meals is Wednesday, March 3.

- AS – Physics: December graduate David Atri-Schuller has been accepted into two prestigious graduate programs, at Stanford University and California Institute of Technology. Among other publications and presentations, David is the second author of a recent paper in [Physical Review Letters](#), a very important research journal in physics.

## President Martin's report

- Admissions update: All metrics are currently above targets
- Visits by potential students are virtual, which opens doors for some students from great distances who would not otherwise visit. Admissions is figuring out how to use virtual alternatives, some of which will continue to be useful after the pandemic.
- Admitted student events are being held virtually with good attendance. President Martin has been highlighting two things at these events.
  - Student Success: The accomplishment rate is at 95.4%. This is slightly lower than usual, but excellent in light of the current higher unemployment due to pandemic. This accomplishment rate is a collaborative effort, a great part of which is faculty who are willing to make connections to help students reach their goals.
  - Student Experience in the age of COVID: Drake faculty are meeting students wherever they are, which may change from day to day due to isolation and quarantine protocols. Drake centers student success, and faculty have been going above and beyond the norm.

## Provost Mattison's report

- Offered appreciations
  - Student mentors who helped students succeed and make that accomplishment rate
  - Erik Maki and his team for work on vaccinations. Teachers are also grateful.
  - CPHS: Site visit went well for Athletic Training, and the faculty was specifically mentioned in the report
- Some groups are being empaneled for reflection
  - Work-life: This group will be empaneled by Venessa Macro in HR and All Staff Council
  - Academics: To be empaneled by the Provost's Office.
  - Wellness: To be empaneled by the Provost's Office.
- Tenure and promotion: Colleges/schools have significant differences in their processes. Some things could be standardized, such as the appeals process. An appeals process should be available to any faculty in the tenure and promotion process. Shelley Fairbairn will put this on the next Senate Exec Committee agenda for discussion.

## Questions

- Happy to see there will be Commencement ceremonies this year. Will faculty be included? Yes. The ceremonies will be held outside in the Drake Stadium on Friday and Saturday, with Sunday as a rain date. CPHS and Law School will be separate, and they will be held in the Knapp Center.
- Is Drake talking to the State Health folks about vaccinations for University faculty and staff? Yes. Chris Nickell is leading our response, and he is in constant communication with state and county officials. So far, higher education faculty are not included in Iowa, although they are in surrounding states. The Iowa Association of Independent Colleges and Universities is working to try to get faculty included in 1B. This list can change at any time, and as more doses of the vaccine become available we may see additional levels opening soon. Anyone who wants to contact state leadership to lobby for higher education faculty vaccines can use these contact avenues:
  - Kelly Garcia: <https://idph.iowa.gov/do> Her email is in the first line of the bio
  - Email: [director@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:director@dhs.state.ia.us)

- General IDPH switchboard: (515) 281-7689
- State positivity is 4.1%, which is much lower than in the past months.

## Report from President Fairbairn

- Self-care workshops: Three opportunities provided for faculty/staff, funded by President Martin, HR, and Art Sanders' office
- Faculty Senate meetings during the fall semester of 2021 will be conducted online
- The guidance on the Faculty Senate Resolution on the use of Racial Epithets created by Erin Lain's office and posted in the Policy Library now includes the clarification that **it is not a policy in and of itself. However, it is official interpretation of section 4.10.1.4 of the existing Faculty Misconduct Policy, vetted by University counsel.**
- Student Senate Report: Kody Craddick, Academic Affairs Senator
  - Tutoring initiatives are being funded from the budgets of the School of Education and Community Engagement senators. These include both community tutoring programs in Des Moines and with students at Drake.
  - There was a motion to change the funding formula for the Board of Student Communication, but it was voted down.

## Unfinished Business

None known

## New Business

- 21-08: Motion to confirm the 2022-2023 Academic Calendar: Motion by Jill VanWyke, seconded by Jimmy Senteza, and approved on voice vote.
- 21-09: Motion to for an additional course release for the Faculty Senate President to be added to the Senate Rules & Regulations: Motion by Michelle Bottenberg, seconded by Megan Brown, and approved on a voice vote, with two abstaining.
- 21-10: Motion to correct the Senate Rules & Regulations language regarding Faculty Senate Past-President, President, and President-Elect attendance at Board of Trustees meetings: Motion made and then clarified by Matthew Hayden, seconded by Renée Cramer, and approved on voice vote with one abstaining.
- Motion to consider the following item informally: Motion by Shelley Fairbairn, seconded by Jill VanWyke, and approved on voice vote.

## Discussion on Academic Calendar

(e.g., adding a permanent 1-week break after J-term)

- Adding a week between J-term and spring would create a 7-week break between the end of fall and the start of spring. That is too long for those not taking J-term.
- The break would not have to be a full week. It could be a day or two.
- There is a desire to have a standard length for J-term, a set number of days. Currently, it could be as little as 13 days or as many as 17 days. Typically, it is 14 days.
- This year we are using that early spring break as an experiment. What are the benefits? Could we use a few days off between J-term and spring?
- As we get more students into J-term, we may have half of our students and faculty involved. Is that a threshold that we need a break? We are considering opening J-term up to FY students.
- Do we always have to start J-term or Spring on a Monday?

- There was no consensus in Senate Exec Committee. Those who regularly teach J-term feel there is a benefit of a break and for a standard length of J-term. There was no agreement on whether or how these could be accomplished.
- Lengthening fall and spring by a few days was also an idea.
- How do any of these changes fit with graduate programs and online calendars?
- What might be the impact of a later graduation date on Drake's accomplishment rate? If we bump it a few days back, are our graduates at a disadvantage?

Each senator is asked to take this issue back to their faculty for consideration next month. Focus questions:

- What calendar changes would be most beneficial to faculty and students?
- What unintended impacts, positive and negative, might the changes have on faculty and students?
- What non-academic impacts might need to be considered? (Consider Student Life, Career Services, Residence Life, facilities, athletics, Financial Aide, etc.)

The Faculty Senate would also like to hear from Student Senate on this.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:24 pm, on a motion by Debra DeLaet, seconded by Jill Van Wyke .