

The meeting of the 2016-2017 Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by President Nancy Reincke. The following senators were present for all or part of the meeting: Dan Alexander, Klaus Bartschat, Maria Clapham, David Courard-Hauri, Renee Cramer, Debra DeLaet, Carrie Dunham-LaGree, Bengu Erguner-Tekinalp, Royce Fichtner, Lourdes Gutierrez-Najera, Adina Klipatrick, Jerrid Kruse, Karen Leroux, Craig Owens, Chuck Phillips, Dorothy Pisarski, Nancy Reincke, Darcie Vandegrift, Melissa Weresh, Craige Wrenn

Absent: Jennifer Harvey, Grady McGrannahan, LouAnn Simpson, David Wright

The December minutes were accepted.

President Martin Report

President Martin opened his remarks offering an update concerning reaction which he has experienced regarding the sanctuary action lead by Faculty Senate last November. He indicated that most of the response has been positive. The January Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting included an important conversation on the topic. That group was reminded this was not a policy and President Martin listened to individuals who did not agree with the University's action. He encouraged, as he did at the December Senate meeting, that Senators refer to him any individual who might wish to engage in a discussion with him. President Martin is willing to do this outreach activity.

During the BOT meeting, the Fiscal Year 2018 Summary Budget, as presented to campus on December 15, 2016, was approved. This budget is built on an entering undergraduate first year class of 850 students for Fall 2017. Also approved was a contingency salary pool which might become available depending on the actual Fall 2017 enrollment numbers. President Martin reminded all present that the 2018 Summary Budget does not include a compensation pool except for the individuals who early promotion or tenure adjustments. Senator Alexander noted faculty's increased involvement in recruiting yet there is not a faculty salary increase. He asked if consideration was given to having a deficit budget year two years in a row. President Martin indicated the budget creation needs did not allow for a compensation pool and noted it is not good to run back to back deficits.

Senator Courard-Hauri asked at what first year enrollment level would allow for the contingency pool. President Martin answered 870. He also stated the recruiting effort is more than just the task of Cole Hall personnel. The enrollment levels of the graduate and professional programs are also important to the University. Senator Clapham is aware of faculty concern that this may be a really good year for excellent scholarly work and service with a zero salary increase. She asked how might this concern be addressed and Provost Mattison answered this would be within the college/school. Her example was the College of Business & Public Administration (CBPA) is using a three year 'look' at these factors. Joe Lenz, Deans of College of Arts & Sciences (AS) spoke and indicated his unit is also using a three year window.

Senator Pisarski asked about the deferred maintenance budget items. President Martin replied the budget had gotten to a place where there was not much of a deferred budget line. He stated he is committed to building up that line. It is not just a "we'd like to improve, it is we must improve". There is a full inventory of needs, stated President Martin, and Chief Administration Officer Venessa Macro is reviewing the most urgent needs on that list. Senator Pisarski noted she is listening to what students are saying when they visit other campuses. President Martin noted that is exactly the set of needs which must be addressed in many areas.

President Martin shared the emerging neighborhood development of an on campus Boys and Girls Club. He displayed a concept drawing of the building. This effort includes Ms. Susi Bird involvement, a current Trustee, and will mean that Drake is only the second university in the country with a full site on campus. This is a 9 million dollar effort with approximately 7.5 million dollars already raised. A public announcement will be made in April that the building, at 25th and Forest Avenue, will become the home a K-12 Boys and Girls Club with indoor and outdoor facilities. President Martin offered that their programming will join nicely with the surrounding facilities,

such as the Fine Arts Center, Knapp Center and new buildings. He answered several questions such as: a) there is not a construction schedule yet, b) the Boys and Girls Club was relied on to know what the neighborhood needs were that will be served, and c) transportation issues, including assessable sidewalks, are important and ongoing conversations.

Concerning online degree programs, President Martin shared that various partners presented previews last Spring. Bringing online programs together could be a partnership of the higher education institution and a commercial vendor or it could be the institution doing it all themselves. He indicated it is no easy path to create quality programs all in house. The current vision is to find a provided to work with and move Drake into online efforts. He stated “Drake needs to move into this world as it is not going away”.

The next steps include setting target enrollments (first marker is to have 300 students in three years), creating the infrastructure to support the effort and not losing sight of providing a quality learning experience. When asked about support staffing being on site or contractors, the reply was that these positions may start with the vendor and move as the projects expand. Provost Mattison stated it is important to watch closely the percentage spent on contractors and keeping Drake’s name and brand marketed.

Provost Mattison Report

Provost Mattison indicated the academic units along with a leadership level team are looking at online programs. The conversation will soon include faculty to learn what programs could move forward. The faculty conversations will include the issue of compensation for course development; and technical support.

Several personnel searches are continuing such as for the Dean of the College of Business and Public Administration lead by Chair, Allen Zagoren; for the Dean of Students, chaired by Jennifer Harvey and the Associate Provost for Equity and Inclusion, led by Tony Tyler.

During May 2017, Drake will be visited by a seasoned Higher Learning Commission (HLC) reviewer for a ‘dry run’ visit. The HLC visit itself will be in October 2017 and Provost Mattison thanked Craig Owens and Kevin Saunders for their leadership in preparing for the accreditation review.

Finally, she shared accreditation updates: a) the AACSB has received an official letter of accreditation. The CBPA now has accreditation for five years; b) The School of Education had a successful visit with high praise from their reviewers; and c) the School of Journalism and Mass Communication has their accreditation visit in a few weeks.

President Reincke Report

President Reincke encouraged Senators to attend the open forum this week for candidates seeking the Associate Provost positions.

She distributed usage data concerning plus/minus grading for Fall 2016. The Provost has had multiple students asking for data as they feel the grading option may have hurt them. There were a few questions brought forward regarding the data. While the usage of the grading option can be determined by number of crns, academic unit or course, it was generally agreed that student learning (enhancement or not) itself cannot be determined. Nor can student motivation be measured via these measures. Several Senators recalled the rich and robust debate with included students a few years ago which advanced the change to allow plus and minus grades for non-Law School courses.

President Reincke asked for Senators to join in the Best College Survey which will be distributed this spring. She encouraged participation in this instrument.

During the Board of Trustees January meeting, President Reincke stated she heard that conservative voices were being marginalized and silenced on campus after the November 2016 elections. She asked if Senate should respond and asked how Senators could help having people being educators rather than needing education about education. Senator Cramer stated she liked how the situation might be framed as there is a difference between academic freedom from conservative or liberal political views. Senator DeLaet noted the perception of silencing views is always an issue which recently has become front page. She indicated a willingness to speak to the Board of Trustees about academic freedom. President Reincke suggested it may be appropriate to have Board members invited into the classroom which has been done in the past. There was a short discussion of whether the invitation would be into faux or real class experiences or even arranged to mirror the faculty effort prepared for perspective students.

Senator Owens asked to learn of the source of the perceptions and definitions of conservative. He asked what “does it mean to speak out about critical inquiry or examination”. Senator DeLaet offered that it may be a piece of the national debate and it may be set of perceptions which are externally generated, not internally generated. Senator Courard-Hauri liked the idea of inviting faculty into the classroom. Senator Fichtner offered that we, the faculty, need to be mindful of how we present ourselves to students as students fear when professors speak up and that view does not belong to the student. He hoped that faculty are grading fairly and treating each student as a person with a voice.

Provost Mattison noted her role is to work with the Board of Trustees and she may ask Senators on how to continue her initial effort.

The Senate meeting ended at 5:05 p.m.