

## FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 4, 2019

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM – Reed 114

Faculty Council and Senate Website: <http://behrend.psu.edu/for-faculty-staff/committees/faculty-senate-and-council>

- I. Call to Order –Tim Krause, Faculty Council & Senate Chair 4:30 PM
- II. Approval of minutes from Faculty Council Meeting on November 6, 2018
  - a. Luciana Aronne and Amy Bridger
- III. Welcome and Comments from the Chair
  - a. Recycling Task Force – scheduled a meeting for this February. Has a new member – Sherri “Sam” Mason, who is the new sustainability coordinator.
  - b. Elections for Behrend Committees will be next month. Nominating committee will convene again.
  - c. Common Hour – Tim got a call from Chair in Harrisburg who said they want to go to UP and get rid of Common Hour and asked if Behrend will support them. They have three per week. Tim spoke to Ralph who stated that every other Penn State campus has one except for Behrend, largely because he has resisted. Pam chimed in to say UP doesn’t have a common hour. Ralph suggested we not back up Harrisburg because it may increase pressure on us to take on a common hour. Pam stated that our students don’t want it (She has a petition). Faculty Affairs suggested each individual school have their own common hour.
  - d. Food options in Science Hall – survey going around.
  - e. Election results for Faculty Council went out today (check email)
    - i. Part-time Rep (Updated since meeting) – Jim Gavio is no longer able to serve but a “special” election will be held to fill the spot.
    - ii. What happened with Senate positions? This was mentioned in the email sent out by Margie Sargent. There were six candidates and we were asked to select 2. We believed we were to elect 2, but on Friday Behrend received a letter saying we were only getting 1. UP explains the delay in information was a computer program error. Imperfect solution was to have the top vote-getter be senator and 2<sup>nd</sup> place became alternate.
      1. Rod mentioned you can listen to the sessions of Faculty Senate and read the reports online (which helps explain how the number of senators is determined).
- IV. Officer Updates
  - a. None
- V. Reports from Committee Chairs and Representative Updates
  - a. Faculty Affairs – Nursing Faculty has Faculty Orientation at UP the same time the Faculty Orientation goes on here. So, they are requesting an hour or two to go over what is important at Behrend. Melanie mentioned Education faculty may run into same issue.
  - b. Curricular Affairs Committee is meeting this week.
- VI. Updates from the Administration
  - a. Pam Silver – We are getting ready for CIMs – Course Implementation Management, which will be a replacement for CRCS. It will do the same job that CRCS does now but will also interface with LionPath and the Bulletin. This is Part 3 of the LionPath implementation. They are piloting the software now. Workflow will be the same but interface is more user-friendly and has much better data capabilities.

- i. Laurie Urraro asked if it will be able to prevent a student who failed the pre-req to take the next class. Pam said that is already in place.
  - ii. Count Me In Initiative will issue an update soon. All 550+ suggestions have been catalogued in a Google Spreadsheet and separated by school/dept/committee.
- b. Ralph Ford
- i. Thanked everyone who helped with nursing labs! Many people showed up – more than anticipated.
  - ii. Update on ADAA Search – will soon announce finalists who will get invited to campus.
  - iii. “Behrend Talks” is a new series of Podcasts hosted by Ralph, where he will be interviewing interesting people in Behrend community. Available on WPSE. You may recommend people to interview.
  - iv. Ralph just returned from 2 days at UP. “One Penn State 2025” was discussed. He was concerned about their hope that all campuses would reach “Curricular Autonomy, and only have programs that are offered across the commonwealth. This would put us in a bad position because we offer some programs that are only offered here. Nick Jones assured him that they are not looking to collapse all programs, there just should be a reasonable degree of “transferability.” For example - 80% of course material should be the same.
    - 1. Ralph also mentioned the “Academic Integrity” portion of this plan. They are recommending that all AI processes become centralized. Review committees would be one large centralized committee. Jones says that this suggest has not yet been accepted.
  - v. Ralph is serving on the Strategic Budget Task Force. This will fundamentally change the way we budget and plan for the future. We have an incremental approach at budgeting right now. This is not sustainable. They are going to start looking at other options and this will be a multi-year process.
  - vi. Ralph gave the presentation attached to this email. It addresses the issues of: Contract Length Changes, Error Made in Payroll Processing, Health Care Savings Account Transfer, Contract Renewal Process, and Creating Academic Job Postings.
    - 1. Questions/Comments
      - a. Tim expressed concern that some adjuncts in his department had no access to Canvas, LionPath, etc. until a week before class. Ralph requested more info be sent to him so he could look into it.
      - b. Concern was expressed about Behrend losing their 5-year contracts, specifically because NTT faculty are held to higher standards than at other **campuses**. It was then asked if President Barron outrightly said “no” to the 5-year contracts or did he say that individual campuses should decide on own. Rod Troester explained that it was his understanding that it was not going to be put into policy.
      - c. Another concern was that the faculty feel as if things aren’t being communicated and the overall transparency regarding what is going on is less. The 5-year contract change was not brought to Faculty Council, only to school directors. It was also stated that there was a lack of acknowledgement that Faculty Council is part of this process and their feedback was not asked for and/or valued.
      - d. In terms of faculty at Behrend being held to higher standards, it was asked if the scholarship component/percentage could be lowered to be more in line with other campuses? Although this was not answered explicitly, it was stated that the scholarship component is not tied to contract lengths.

- e. It was then asked if this decision was a financial issue or a policy issue? Ralph answered that if we continue to expand the number of 5-year contracts, it may put us in a difficult position in the future. Benefits and Salaries have gone up 5% while revenue has only gone up 1%. Goal is not to “lay people off.” Pam Silver stated “this is an attempt to be fiscally responsible so that in 5 years we will all still have our jobs.”

VII. Announcements

VIII. Adjournment

Luciana Aronne and Melanie Hetzel-Riggin 6:05 PM