

## FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Friday, September 27, 2019

12:15 AM - 1:15 PM – Reed 114

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

- I. Call to Order – Melanie D. Hetzel-Riggin, Faculty Council & Senate Chair
- II. Approval of the Minutes from the August 22.  
Luciana Arrone and Matt Swinarski, passed unanimously
- III. Welcome and Comments from the Chair  
The schedule for the final exams is available online.
- IV. Special Presentation – Academic and Career Planning Center, Terri Mando and Emily Artillo
  1. Changes in the Academic Warning system, Academic Progress Policy. The changes and outline of the new policy is available on line <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Advising-Essentials--Academic-Progress-Policy.html?soid=1109866258558&aid=TdwKTIiR9DU>  
Key points:
    - Academic warning is now triggered if GPA dips below 2.0
    - Starfish notes are very important for student support.
    - Pay attention to the Academic Advising Essentials updates from ACPC. For the information on the previous newsletters visit: <https://behrend.psu.edu/Academics/academic-services/acpc/faculty/advising-essentials-newsletters>
  2. ACPC is offering a number of Faculty Adviser Professional Development Series this Fall.

Coming up:

- Advising Appointments for Scheduling – October 1
- Understanding the Challenges of Chinese Students in US Universities Oc. 2
- Shared Reading and Brainstorming on Retention, Nov. 12
- Academic Advising and Trans Equity, Dec. 11
- Conducting Academic Reviews, Dec. 17.

If you have any topics that you would like to see covered please contact Emily at ACPC.

3. Information on general education requirements and other useful advising information is available upon request not at [askacpc@psu.edu](mailto:askacpc@psu.edu)

- V. Report from Officers and Standing Committees
  1. There was a Faculty Council Meeting on September 12, the notes are available on our webpage. The minutes and agendas are updated on the webpage; the rest of the page is being updated.
  2. Academic Computing Committee (Chuck Yeung via email)  
The Academic Computing Committee met this Tuesday. Jim Serafin briefed the committee on moving some of the computing assets to the library to increase library usage and free up facilities for other uses. Faculty volunteered to speak with the scheduler from their schools about their needs and we discuss possible facilities that could be moved. We also discuss remote lab as a possible alternative.

We also heard from our student representative about student concerns. Some of the concerns were regarding the slowness of logins and opening programs. There was also a suggestion to add computers to the commuter lounge in Smith Chapel. Jim Serafin will look into that possibility.

3. Curricular Affairs (Lisa Eliot via email)

The Curricular Affairs subcommittee met on 9/19/19 at 2:30 pm in Reed 113.

In attendance were Adam Simpson, Alan Jircitano, Angela Davis, Naseem Ibrahim, Justyna Skomra and Lisa Eliot. Missing were Qi Dong and Gary Smith.

- Last year's report was distributed to all attendees.
- We ensured that everyone was receiving CRCS access and requests for approval. Everyone said that they were receiving these requests.
- We agreed that each member would check to be sure that the most recent copy of their school's curriculum approval process was in Box.
- I made sure that everyone had access to the Box folder.
- Naseem agreed to get the Engineering School's process and contribute it to the folder.
- Adam asked if we had a deadline from the administration. I answered that I had reached out to Dr. Pam Silver before the semester began and had not heard back. No one had communicated a deadline otherwise.
- We will schedule another meeting once we have the curriculum process from the engineering school.

VI. Reports from University Faculty Senate

- a. Lisa Mangel (University Senate) alerted to the possible audit on safety of the labs. There have been major infractions at labs at the UP, so Behrend's labs will be looked at as well. For those schools who run labs, please make sure to follow and explain to students the necessity of safety in the lab.
- b. Ralph Ford raised an issue of "safety culture" on Behrend campus more generally. While Behrend has done well, there is a push toward creating a better culture of safety across the university.
- c. Behrend faculty are welcome to bring up their best practices to University Senate.

VII. Unfinished Business

None

VIII. New Business

1. Luciana Arrone raised a question about a set protocol regarding the N and Z courses. What are the caps according to the discipline? Sometimes you cannot meaningfully integrate two disciplines with 80 students in the class. What about team taught courses, what can we do with the equal distribution of work, credit, content etc.

- Pam Silver answered that so far there have been not conversations about the workload. However, now that we have these courses it might be trickling up. Regarding more clarity is about the 80% rule – what does that apply to? Pam responded that this is a question to University Senate.
- Lisa Mangel will bring up that issue to University Senate, there has been a conversation. However, more faculty involvement is necessary for a meaningful policy to be developed.
- Molly Lang asked if Behrend has enough N courses? Pam's answer – "we are keeping up."
- Question was raised about how does the number of N courses influence the enrolments in regular gen eds?

Pam responded that yes, these is going to be an effect. Registrars is collecting data. It is important to error on conservative side for the intro courses in gen eds. Both declining enrollments more generally and introduction of the N courses are influence on general enrolment in gen eds. There is not data yet, but it is being collected.

## 2. Laurie Urraro via email – Women’s Lacrosse and Nominations for Women impact award

- A new student who is in the process of starting a women's lacrosse club sport at Behrend reached out to me (as I met her this past spring semester at one of the Blue and White Days) to inquire about the possibility of finding a ladies' lacrosse coach. As I know NOTHING about lacrosse, I graciously declined the invitation to be the coach, but told her that I would pass along this request to all the faculty in the event that someone who knows about lacrosse might be interested in coaching. Please contact Nicole Atkinson ([nza5281@psu.edu](mailto:nza5281@psu.edu)) if interested.
- The time to nominate someone for the Penn State Behrend Commission for Women's Woman of Impact Award is coming up soon. The time period to nominate someone will begin on October 1st and will end on October 18th. To quote Behrend's website with regard to the award (<https://behrend.psu.edu/for-faculty-staff/committees/behrend-commission-for-women/woman-of-impact-award>):

"Penn State Behrend's Commission for Women has created an award to highlight the contributions of women at Behrend. This award is bestowed upon a woman who has been significantly engaged with the college, and who has made a meaningful contribution to society in her professional life.

The Woman of Impact Award includes a lunchtime presentation and award ceremony, which highlights the achievements of women at Behrend as well as the accomplishments of the awardee. The event also includes opportunities for the awardee to meet with students, faculty, staff, and community. The Commission for Women will work closely to provide ample opportunities for the awardee to mentor current students."

Please consider nominating someone for the award! The ceremony for the recipient will take place in early/ mid-November.

## IX. Announcements

### X. Vision of the Behrend Graduate: Vision of a Behrend Faculty Member?

Melanie is going to be conducting the research on the profile of Behrend Faculty Member. More information is forthcoming in future meetings.

## XI. Adjournment

Eric Corty and Matt Swinarski, no abstentions.

Attendance for Faculty Senate Meeting

September 27, 2019

Reed 114

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME

Melanie Hetzel-Riggin	Angela Deming-John
Lisa Suozilo-Harand	
Jeri Mando	
Emily Artello	
Lisa Mangel	
MATT CISZEK	
Pam Silber	
Ralph Ford	
Amy Carney	
MATT SWINARSKI	
Molly Monahan Lang	
Boon Ong	
Joe Previte	
Ken Louie	
Blair Tuttle	
Jonathan Hall	
Luciana Chorne	
Eric Lentz	
Jay Amicangelo	
Jason Bennett	