



Faculty Senate Meeting Notes
October 27, 2021

I. Call to order

Larry Smith called to order the regular meeting of the Snow College Faculty Senate at 3:30 p.m. on, October 27, 2021. The Senate met face-to-face in the Noyes, Academy Room with Zoom video conferencing available.

II. Roll Call

Senate Members: Senate President Larry Smith, Senate Vice President Jed Rasmussen, Matt Gowans, Jacob Thomas, Weston Jamison, Alan Christensen, Dennis Schugk, Sandra Cox, David Fullmer, Adam Burningham, Faculty Association President Garth Sorenson, Student Representative Preston Moon, Senate Parliamentarian Erick Faatz

Others: Provost Melanie Jenkins, Assistant Provost Kade Parry, TLC Committee Co-Chairpersons Steve Hart and David Rodriguez, TLC Committee Members Jeanie Kleinhans, and Kami Tyler.

III. Minutes approval for October 13, 2021: E. Faatz did not attach the draft minutes when the final agenda was distributed to Senate members Monday, October 25, 2021. The minutes will be included for review in the next Senate meeting.

IV. Opening and Informational Items

A. Welcome from L. Smith especially of TLC committee members.

V. Good News and Committee Reports

A. A & T Committee: M. Gowans indicated that everything is going well. He also mentioned that he had been contacted about concerns regarding the Fall Semester 2021 and 2022 schedules being shortened. M. Jenkins indicated that a Calendar Committee creates criteria then a schedule based on the criteria: the schedule must start on a Monday; there needs to be a reduction in instruction days; and there are many other factors that must be considered. Faculty members should contact deans with their recommendations.

B. Curriculum Committee: S. Cox indicated that minutes should probably not be openly posted on the Snow College web site. This might be the case for some other committees too. Consultation with the new Snow College lawyer should be made to confirm this. What are other options? Some faculty members are angry about courses not being included in the schedule when five-year syllabus reviews have not been completed including a one-year grace period. Are deans and/or department chairs always involved in the review process? Argos is not always working well. The Faculty Senate will support deadlines. Senate members should reinforce meeting deadlines in division meetings.

C. Teaching and Learning Center Committee: See agenda item A below.

D. Professional Track Committee: No report.

E. Global Engagement Committee: W. Jamison indicated that the committee has met several times to debate the merger with Inclusion and Diversity. Members ultimately voted 8 to 2 in favor of the merger.

F. Honors Committee: J. Thomas reported that the Pizza with Professors activity is upcoming. There has been extensive use of the Snow College App to share information with students.

G. Library Committee: J. Rasmussen reported that the committee met recently. New security gates should be installed by mid-November 2021. The Ebsco and Credo databases will create concept maps for students doing preliminary research.

H. Service Learning Committee: D. Schugk indicated that the committee will be involved in a process to select a new director.

I. Faculty Association: G. Sorensen indicated that an Association meeting was held Friday, October 8, 2021. Please report any faculty concerns to Association officers.

J. Adjunct Information: A. Burningham reported that some adjuncts have committed to work with Adam on adjunct issues and attending meetings.

K. Student Information: P. Moon indicated that there have been some very successful student events.

L. Ad Hoc/Other: N/A

VI. Senate Business

A. Senate TLC Committee Visit

1. Recently, each Senate committee has been invited to supplement the regular reports of Senate representatives in a yearly visit. The intention is to offer any needed support from the Senate and ask that each committee keep an updated roster and bylaws for faculty member reference.

2. Steve Hart and David Rodriguez are co-chairs. S. Hart distributed a progress report to Senate members prior to this meeting which includes information regarding committee progress, what is going well, and challenges.

3. The Pedagogy and Practice Conference went well and they have ideas for improvement. Division lunch bunches are going well: sharing of ideas is very important. UQI requests are being made. The committee would like

to increase numbers of teaching triangles. Non-faculty members are offering a lot to the committee.

4. Some challenges include: Significant recent turnover in committee members. A fund number for disbursing UQI money would be helpful. This should happen November 2021. Division discussions have been uneven. The committee is considering the possibility of themed discussions.

5. The co-directorship model is working well. Responsibilities can be split so a lot more can be accomplished.

6. There have been some issues regarding past committee focuses. There is not a difference of focus for the two members from the same division on the committee. Responsibilities could be separated. Some smaller divisions have difficulty finding two members. Having two members is definitely beneficial to a division.

7. Scheduling a time when all committee members can meet is a challenge. Possibly set a regular meeting time and have divisions select representatives early enough so that faculty member schedules can be adjusted as needed.

B. Reduction in Workforce and Financial Exigencies Policy 319 Discussion

1. Tabled for further revision and new legal counsel review.

C. Academic Freedom Now Article Discussion: “Higher Ed’s Misguided Purging of Trump Supporters”

1. Not allowing speakers because of political views is scary. Shutting down free speech by censoring others is often very hypocritical.

2. Snow is doing quite well especially in the classroom, but some students fear openly disagreeing with instructors. Students fear reprisal from other students more than from instructors.

3. Finding common ground is important. There seems to be a tendency to immediately attack others. Could social media be partly to blame?

4. There can be difficulty grading some assignments because of students misunderstanding the intent of teachers’ comments. It is important to teach students how to take and understand feedback.

D. Role of the Global Engagement Committee Continued Discussion.

1. There is work to do to understand overlapping elements of the merging committees then draft new bylaws.

2. Domestic students travelling abroad needs to be considered.
3. Some committee members feel that there need to be more committee members to cover the increased workload.
4. Recognition of inclusion and diversity organizations beyond Snow College is important.
5. Inclusion of nonfaculty members on the committee is important.

E. Shared Governance Discussion Continued

1. Tabled until a single topic focused meeting November 17, 2021.

F. Faculty Senate Committee Review Discussion

1. What are necessary committees, “nice” committees, not needed committees, and new needed committees? Senate bylaws provide for committee adjustments as conditions change.
2. What do we need to change going into the future? For example, is more direct committee oversight needed for various types of online course offerings?
3. Some existing committees not currently associated with the Senate, and some that are currently subcommittees of the Senate, do not want to be subcommittees of the Senate. They do not want to be held back by the slowness of committee process. They need to quickly keep up with current happenings. Some committee members are going to the CAO/Provost rather than to the Senate with problems.

G. Faculty Senate Bylaws Revisions/Updates Discussion

1. E. Faatz sent a draft template of Senate bylaws with the agenda for this meeting. Senators are welcome to review and draft changes for Senate discussion and/or approval.

President Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

The next regular meeting 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 10, 2021.

Minutes submitted by Erick Faatz
Revised 11/8/2021
Final minutes approved 11/10/2021