



Faculty Senate Meeting Notes  
November 10, 2021

I. Call to order

Larry Smith called to order the regular meeting of the Snow College Faculty Senate at 3:30 p.m., November 10, 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 Sorensen, Student Representative Preston Moon, Senate Parliamentarian Erick Faatz

Others: Provost Melanie Jenkins, Service Learning Committee Chairperson Malynda Bjerregaard, HR Director Brent Baxter

III. Minutes Approval

A. Minutes approved for October 13, 2021. Motion made by S. Cox, second by D. Schugk with a nearly unanimous vote of approval and one abstention by G. Sorensen who was not able to attend the October 13, 2021 meeting.

B. Minutes approved for October 27, 2021. Motion made by G. Sorensen, second by D. Schugk with a unanimous vote of approval.

IV. Opening and Informational Items

A. Welcome from L. Smith especially of Service Learning Committee chairperson Malynda Bjerregaard.

B. The Snow College Faculty Senate will hold a special meeting focused on shared governance November 17, 2021 at 3:30 pm.

C. L. Smith and G. Sorensen met with President Cook for their monthly meeting.

1. A proposal for a merger of Snow College with Southern Utah University in order to have one budget and one president was discussed. President Cook and the Snow Board of Trustees are working to head it off. Local community leaders are against the proposal. Snow's pursuit of more legislative funding was cited as a main reason for the proposal.

2. The Council of College Presidents is against legislation of academic freedom and/or Critical Race Theory. M. Jenkins is on a statewide committee reviewing this and will keep the Faculty Senate updated.

D. E. Faatz distributed a list of Senate related election reminders with the agenda for this meeting. Elections for senate representatives need to be held by January 20, 2022 in the following divisions: Business and Technology; Fine Arts, Communications and New Media; Humanities; Natural Science and Mathematics; and Social and Behavioral Science. Please remind deans to organize and carry out elections.

#### V. Good News and Committee Reports

A. A & T Committee: M. Gowans indicated that everything is going well. The final two interviews of the semester will take place next week.

B. Curriculum Committee: S. Cox indicated that the Curriculum Committee and the General Education Committee are meeting every other week on a staggered schedule.

C. Teaching and Learning Center Committee: A. Christensen echoed K. Carter's comments about the recent advisory committee meetings. Alan Hall made a \$1 million commitment over time for the business program. The TLC Committee recommended themes for monthly division brown bag meetings. There were mixed feelings about a themed approach, so it will not be required of all divisions.

D. Professional Track Committee: Karen Carter reported that there were significant advisory committee meetings last week on the Richfield campus. Members of the committees indicated that the programs are doing well. There has not been a Professional Track Committee meeting recently.

E. Global Engagement Committee: W. Jamison indicated that he is meeting individually with committee members regarding the proposed merger of the GEAC and the Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

F. Honors Committee: J. Thomas reported that honors students are doing well.

G. Library Committee: J. Rasmussen indicated no report.

H. Service Learning Committee: See the related agenda item below.

I. Faculty Association: G. Sorensen indicated that fewer cases of Covid-19 is great news.

J. Adjunct Information: A. Burningham reported that things are going well for adjuncts.

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 Service Learning (SL) Committee Visit

1. M. Bjerregaard reported that the program is moving forward as in the past. There has not been an increase in financial support as requested.
2. M. Bjerregaard is leaving Snow College at the end of the semester, so the committee will need to select a new director. The directorship is a lot of work for a full-time professor. It was clarified that a director is chosen by committee through the Provosts Office. The director serves a three-year term. Provost Jenkins will organize a selection committee.
3. They are assessing all SL designated courses taught at Snow. There is a statewide service learning grant from AAC&U to collect artifacts from SL designated courses.
4. Faculty Fellowship applications are in and they are working to award those.
5. M. Bjerregaard indicated that committee members have been very strong and she hopes that momentum will continue.
6. Association with statewide and national service learning organizations has been important.
7. There are at least three students set to graduate spring 2022 from the Service Learning program. Service learning credentials articulate fully to other institutions. Further program recruitment is needed but the time commitment needed is difficult to manage.

### B. Reduction in Force and Financial Exigencies Policy 319

1. B. Baxter reported that Mario Arango (Snow College legal counsel) recommended keeping most details of the earlier draft reviewed by the Senate for possible litigation, so there has not been much reduction in the document length.
2. B. Baxter carefully reviewed related Board of Regents policy and other schools' policies for revision ideas. He is still working on referring to Board of Regents policy as a way of shortening Snow's policy.
3. Regarding the relationship between policy and procedure, it is important to separate procedure when possible. It is important to make sure that procedure cannot be changed at whim if it directly affects faculty retention. It is important to indicate who will review reasons for reduction.

C. Academic Freedom Now Article Discussion “How a Dispute Over the N-Word Became a Dispiriting Farce: Since When Is Reading James Baldwin Out Loud in Class an Academic Crime?”

1. How careful do we have to be about causing harm? It is possibly important to preface discussions when approaching controversial words, issues, etc. Social media may intensify student positions. Does administration have faculty members’ backs? Policy is needed for protection on both sides.

D. Posting of Committee Agendas and/or Minutes

1. Probably a Canvas course, or courses, as repositories is the best option right now. It is important the repositories of record are available.

E. Faculty Senate Committee Review

1. The Senate probably needs objectives for making decisions about included subcommittees. What is the current and future direction of programs for which committees are needed in higher education? This is probably an element of shared governance.

F. Faculty Senate Bylaws Revisions/Updates

1. Any recommendations can come from any senator. Recommendations can be drafted in the document sent to Senate members from E. Faatz.

President Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:07 p.m.

Special Senate meeting 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 17, 2021.

The next regular meeting 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 8, 2021.

Minutes submitted by Erick Faatz

Revised 1/10/2022

Final minutes approved 1/12/2022