

College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Faculty Senate

Minutes from the Humanities and Social Science Faculty Senate Meeting held on
Monday, September 28, 2015 from 4.00 pm to 5.13 pm in 155 Hodges Hall

In attendance:

1. Wilfred Major, President-Interdisciplinary Studies
2. Chris Barrett, English
3. Michael Barton, Sociology
4. Charles David Isbell, Philosophy & Religious Studies
5. Jeff Leichman, French
6. Bryan McCann, Communication Studies
7. Dorothy McCaughy, English
8. Kent Mathewson, Geography and Anthropology
9. Carmela Mattza, Secretary-Foreign Languages and Literatures
10. Carolyn Ware, Proxy for Michael Biblier-English, Phillip Maciah-English & Film Media Arts

Agenda

1. Open and introductions
2. Approval of minutes for May 5, 2015.
3. Membership of the Faculty Senate
 - a. bringing membership in line with the bylaws
 - b. terms ending in 2016
4. Subcommittees
 - a. Academic Oversight
 - b. Faculty Welfare
 - c. Scholarship and Teaching
5. Update on internship policies
6. Update on grade inflation / the role of student evaluations in reviewing faculty performance
7. College office hours
8. Updating HSS Faculty Senate Website
9. New business
10. Adjourn

The Meeting

1. Wilfred Major started the meeting at four. He welcomed the College Senate to a new academic year and asked everyone to introduce him or herself.
2. The president submitted to the Senate the minutes of the last meeting of the Senate for its approval. It was approved unanimously.
3. a) In the last faculty meeting of the 2014-2015 academic year, the president reviewed one-on-one the status and time appointment of all the attending members. The information served to locate those Departments whose representation is missing in the Senate and brought a handout to illustrate his point (Appendix 1). Right now, for example, the Senate is missing a representative from the Psychology Department. Moreover, in the past, a representative from LSU Army ROTC has been invited to attend the College Senate although this is not featured in the by-laws. Finally the president reported that there is a total of 6 or 7 faculty members that need to be integrated into the College Senate to bring it to its full capacity and functionality and these are in addition to the number of faculty from Humanities and Social Science that are needed to fulfill the vacancies at the University Senate. Kent Mathewson then suggested the Senate enroll more people from Interdisciplinary programs as members-at-large, which was praised. Finally, the president expressed his intention to bring the membership of the College Faculty Senate to full accord with the by-laws by the end of this academic year.

b) The president expressed his desire to be able to provide the number of faculty members whose term in the Senate ends in 2016 so that their replacements can be sought before the academic year ends.
4. The following three subcommittees for this academic year were installed:

Academic Oversight

- a) Steve Andes
- b) Jeff Leichman
- c) Carolyn Ware

Faculty Welfare

- a) Dorothy McCaughy
 - b) Bryan McCann
 - c) Carmela Mattza
- * William Saas was proposed to be part of this committee and the President expects him to kindly agree. [10/2 update: Saas has agreed. – WEM]

Scholarship and Teaching

- a) Michael Barton
- b) Chris Barrett
- c) Michael Bibler
- d) Kent Mathewson
- e) Daniel Tirone

5. Old business

- a) At the College Senate meeting held on March 10th, 2015, Professors Helen Regis and Steve Andes volunteered to work on a proposal for HSS Internship policies toward uniform the criteria to recognize such experience with credits. Steve Andes was unable to attend today's meeting. Carolyn Ware and Jeff Leichman agreed to join Steve Andes and Helen Regis's efforts.
- b) Invited by the president to comment on grade inflation and the role of student evaluation in reviewing, the Senate members in attendance expressed their desire to help the College of HSS in finding a better tool to evaluate teaching performance. The members in attendance expressed their desire to keep exploring the following questions:
 - 1. Are student evaluations used by all universities similar to LSU in reviewing process?
 - 2. Are student evaluations creating more pressure on untenured faculty and instructors than on tenured faculty?
 - 3. What are the real benefits of having students performing evaluations on courses?

Dr. Kent Mathewson reminded the president that last year, Kodi Roberts volunteered to research on what have been discussed about the grade inflation item as well as the role of student evaluations in reviewing faculty performance in the college faculty senate.

- c) The President informed the Senate that Associate Dean Richardson has requested the Senate to write a policy on faculty office hours since there is no HSS policy on this issue but each department has its own policy. Dorothy McCaughey volunteered to collect information about the policy each department is currently holding before moving forward with this request.

- d) Dean Blanchard expressed to the president the need to update the HSS Faculty Senate website since it was last updated in 2011. Dorothy McCaughey volunteered to work with the President on it.
6. The President informed the College Senate that Assistant Dean Rebecca Caire is currently testing new software that, if implemented, will help to better track student performance in the college. Since this new software will involve faculty collaboration, it will be presented to the Senate for consultation.

The meeting ended at 5.13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmela Mattza

Appendix 1

Current membership of HSS Faculty Senate compared with numbers called for in the bylaws:

- English: 99 → 5 Senators (currently 5)
- Foreign Languages: 45 → 3 Senators (currently 1) = **-2**
- French Studies: 24 → 1 Senators (currently 1)
- Geography and Anthropology: 29 + 10 research → 2 Senators (currently 2)
- Political Science: 37 → 2 Senators (currently 1) = **-1**
- History: 34 → 2 Senators (currently 2)
- Philosophy: 25 → 2 Senators (currently 1) = **-1**
- Psychology: 32 → 2 Senators (currently?) = **-2**
- Sociology: 25 → 1 Senator (currently 1)
- Communication Studies: 24 → 1 Senator (currently 1)
- Communication Disorders: 15 → 1 Senator (currently 1)
- Interdisciplinary Programs → 1 Senator (currently 1)
- + 6 at-large members (currently 1 confirmed) = **-5**

If this is accurate, the full body of the HSS Senate should have an additional 11 members.