

## Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup> Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Chairperson: Frank Elwell

Recorder: Cathy Coomer

Time: 1:15pm

Time Adjourning: 2:30pm

### Members Present:

Frank Elwell, Chair

Kevin Woller, Vice Chair

Sally Emmons, Parliamentarian

Cathy Coomer, Secretary (backup)

Marla Smith, Treasurer

Kaitlin Crotty

Dana Gray

Paul Hatley – absent

Steve Housel

Gioia Kerlin

Mike McKeon

Jin Seo

Terri Bycroft

Kirk Voska

Sonya Munsell

**Minutes:** Minutes from 11/2/18 (Approved) Sorry didn't get who made the motion or 2<sup>nd</sup> it

**Furlough Days** – F. Elwell reviewed last two Budget Review Meetings and furloughs. He explained that originally the group voted for 3 months of furlough vs. 6 months due to this being the year for the HLC Review and not allowing our reserves to go down too low. At today's budget review meeting, T. Volturo announced that Dr. Rice was not pleased with the vote and felt very strong about getting rid of the furloughs and suggested to consider a half day (or four hours) for 6 months. He also felt that we would be in a better place to predetermine what the state was going to do to assist higher education. He wants them ended by July. Many of the faculty senate members were against the ½ day asking questions of those who attended the budget review meeting. It was noted that the percentage and full explanation will be sent out to all faculty and staff when the President makes his final decision. F. Elwell added that the Budget Review committee plans to meet every two weeks beginning in January. It was noted that enrollment is down from a year ago, however the number of full-time faculty is the same as a year ago with the adjunct numbers cut in half, due to elimination of course sections. F. Elwell asked that they go back to their departments and start thinking again about more cuts. D. Gray noted that these cuts should not be focused primarily on faculty and made several suggestions on several staff that were leaving and not replacing them. President Rice continues to be pressured to end the furloughs but with enrollment not increasing, we must look at other resources. Several members asked if the Foundation was going to continue looking for funds for the university as M. Phillips said he would try to do several months ago. To get completely rid of furloughs, we must come up with \$711,000 + \$180,000 due to a decrease in enrollment.

Many faculty members were concerned about the \$25,000 employees and those who must drive a longer distance and it was noted, that they can request with the ½ day furlough, either 4 hours of vacation and/or 4 hours of comp time. Most members were not in favor of this and requested a motion that the furloughs be 3 months on, 3 months off. D. Gray made the motion, K. Woller seconded the motion. 13 members voted in favor of the motion being brought before President Rice, two members abstained, and one member voted against it. F. Elwell noted that it will be brought up at the next Ad Hoc meeting on Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Faculty Association** – K. Woller asked suggested, in lieu to the ongoing concern with furloughs, that a faculty association meeting, separate from Convocation, needs to be held before school begins in the spring.

**Treasurer's Report** – M. Smith checked with T. Volturo and the Faculty Senate has \$115.44 in a university account. She also checked with the Foundation and we have an account totaling \$333.32. She suggested it would be nice to move them into one account but needs to find out the restrictions for both before making any suggestions. S. Housel noted an experience with another colleague over a book they wrote raising over \$13,000. They had hoped to use some of the funding to send two students from their department to a seminar at TU but was told they could not use the funding for that. M. Smith is getting a clarification and will report back to all faculty members.

**Faculty Access to Student Records** – S. Housel visited with Heidi H. about access to student transcripts for advising, etc. and that many faculty had had problems in the past. Directions to access a student transcript, is to 1. Go to Myrsu.edu 2. Click on Faculty 3. Click on "Add advisee" and you then type in their name. 4. You will need to know their Student ID to gain access. It will not make you their permanent advisor, but one of them. The downfall is having to access their student ID as well.

**Graduation Applications** – T. Brycroft reported that Heidi is doing all the grad apps at this time. They have hired another person to begin working in that area. K. Voska asked about course transfers or subs and the paperwork involved and if the paperwork must still be completed if approved on the matrix. He cited one situation when the course was a co-requisite and the problems that incurred when trying to show that the courses could be taken concurrently.

**Faculty Constitution** – reviews were supposed to be given out and approved by members of each faculty. I was unfortunately out of town for that meeting and did not get the minutes out to our department. I sent them on Friday and will ask for everyone's signature on Thursday during our departmental meeting.

**New Business** – S. Munsell followed up on a question asked by one of her department members regarding tuition waivers for dependents of fulltime employees. It was noted that years ago, RSU officer tuition waivers to staff on a regular basis. Another request was the consideration of changing our Athletic division from NCAA Division II to a club sports. The cost of E-sports was also mentioned in the midst of the ongoing furloughs and K. Woller noted how important, it is now, for RSU to become a club sports before OU or OSU decides to do the same. In the midst of future cutbacks, faculty members were reminded about participating in this year's SHIELD conference and to begin thinking about what papers to submit. F. Elwell noted that the Budget Advisory Committee noted that they have heard that our new state administration might be kinder to higher education and even consider funding raises. He also noted that we can't get raises if we are still getting furlough days. S. Emmons noted that progress has been slow reviewing the university's committee meetings and that they are looking at combining several clubs together as well as limiting the amount of reps in each committee.