



MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Faculty Senate
FROM: Dr. Brendan B. Kelly, President
RE: President's Response to Senate Actions
DATE: February 12, 2021

Following is my response to the actions of the Faculty Senate as represented in the minutes of the meeting of January 22, 2021, which were approved electronically on January 29, 2021. All program approvals are made contingent upon the department's commitment to staff the changes out of existing internal funds. Note that Section 3.6.2 of the Board of Regents Policy Manual states, inter alia: "The termination of educational programs, degrees, or majors shall be submitted to the Chancellor for review and recommendation for action by the Board of Regents." So, all program, degree, and major terminations (as well as additions) need to be approved by the Board. Our requests should include the rationale and the plan for addressing the needs of existing students.

Committee Reports:

Committee II: Graduate Programs Committee (Connie Barbour, Chair)

Action Items:

- A) College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry
 - 1) Department of Anthropology, Psychology, and Sociology
 - a) PSYC 8887 – Advanced Practicum in Psychology
Request: Modify
 - b) PSYC 9087 – Teaching Practicum
Request: Modify

Items a and b were taken as a block and approved with 40 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

I accept this motion.

- c) Psychology, Ph.D.
Request: Modify

Item was approved with 41 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

I accept this motion.

- d) SOCI 6286 – Internship
Request: Modify

Item was approved with 44 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

I accept this motion.

Information Item:

- A) University College
1) Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in European Union Studies
Request: Terminate

I have no comment.

Committee III: Academic Policies Committee (Emily McKendry-Smith, Chair)

Information Item:

- A) UWG Calendar Committee Liaison Report
- *The UWG Calendar Committee is meeting soon, so please send any questions or thoughts regarding the UWG Calendar to APC Chair Emily McKendry-Smith.*
 - *In 2021, it is planned that the withdrawal deadline be after 70% of the semester has been completed for full-term courses. It will return to 50% in 2022. Beginning April 3, 2021, students that choose to withdraw from UWG full session, eCore full session or eMajor full session courses will receive a WF.*
 - *The decision has been made to exempt W grades for Spring 2021 from counting towards a student's 6 withdrawals.*

I have no comment.

Committee X: Rules Committee (Angela Branyon, Chair)

Action Items: (Figure 1)

- A) *UWG Policies and Procedures Manual*
1) Article IV, Section 2.A.
Request: Modify

After significant discussion, a friendly amendment was proposed to amend the language for Article IV, Section 2.A.5 as follows: "Duly elected Senators will be apportioned to each college, school, and the Library, such that the number of Senators allocated to each of the above-mentioned units shall equal 10% of their full-time faculty, rounding up if faculty number does not end with a zero. Each college, school, or the Library is guaranteed 2 Senators regardless of size. Allocation of apportioned Senators will be determined by a vote of all full-time faculty within the college, school, and the Library. During reapportionment, current Senators will complete the portion of their term that comprises the academic year, and representation within an academic unit will be determined by that academic unit." The vote to amend the language was approved with 41 in favor, 2 opposed, and 0 abstentions. (See January 22, 2021 Zoom meeting, beginning 1:11:27). The amended language is reflected in Figure 1 below.

Following this vote to approve the friendly amendment, the proposal to modify Article IV, Section 2.A in the UWG Policies and Procedures Manual was approved with 40 in favor, 1 opposed, and 1 abstention.

I accept this motion.

Committee XII: Teaching, Learning, and Assessment (Rebecca Gault, Chair)

Information Item:

A) SEI Faculty Survey Reminder

The Senate's Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Committee invites all faculty to review the existing Student Evaluation of Instruction instrument (last revised 2011) and submit feedback, comments, and suggestions with potential revisions to the instrument.

I have no comment.

New Business

A) Resolution in Response to the January 6, 2021 Assault on the US Capitol (Figure 2)

After some discussion of the events of January 6, 2021 and the resolution on the floor, a Senator from the Richards College of Business stated that they had received a number of emails from colleagues stating that they did not want the Faculty Senate to make a statement about political matters or represent them on this matter, and asked that this be stated on the record at their request. (See January 22, 2021 Zoom meeting, beginning 2:20:03).

Once noted, Chair Williams called the question and the Resolution was approved with 31 in favor, 6 opposed, and 4 abstentions.

I thank the Faculty Senate for their continued emphasis on our university's core values. As this statement comes speaking on behalf of the faculty, it stands on its own merit.

B) President's Responses to Fall 2020 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Chair Williams stated that this item appeared on the agenda at the request of a Senator who asked that we discuss this at the January meeting. As no Faculty Senate business is binding until we have received a President's Response to the Senate-approved meeting minutes, there has been increased concern that there has been no President's Response to the approved September 11, 2020, October 16, 2020, and December 4, 2020 meeting minutes in accordance with UWG Policies and Procedures Article IV, Section 2.C.2 (p. 30) which states:

"Upon receipt of a recommendation from the Senate, the President within thirty (30) days, shall either approve or disapprove the recommendation. The recommendations will become official policy when approved by the President, except when approval by the Chancellor or Board of Regents is required. If a recommendation from the Senate to the President is not accepted, the President shall report in writing to the Senate his or her reasons for rejecting the recommendation and upon two-thirds vote of the Senate the matter shall be referred to the General Faculty for consideration and recommendation."

In talking with the Provost, Chair Williams was given assurances that the President's Responses to the September and October meeting minutes would come by January 4, 2021. After no receipt by January 11, Chair Williams was assured that they would be received before the January 22 Senate meeting agenda was posted to the website on January 20. At the time of the writing of these Senate meeting minutes, only the President's Response to the November 13, 2020 meeting minutes have been received.

At 3:31 pm, Chair Williams opened the floor for discussion (see January 22, 2021 Zoom meeting, beginning 2:27:20). Significant discussion ensued on how the delay in the President's signing statements affected curriculum, updates to the UWG Faculty Handbook and the UWG Policies and Procedures Manual, and matters of shared governance. When asked the reason for this delay in the President's signing statements, Chair Williams stated that he was told the President was waiting for the new Provost to be installed and then Dr. Preston's careful review of the minutes. Chair Williams also shared that he knew that the President had concerns over specific items that were passed in both September and October, and that he is expecting vetoes for those items. No vetoes have been received as yet. Chair Williams stated that each time that he has broached the subject of the delayed signing statements with the Provost, he has been assured that they were coming soon. After continued discussion, it was suggested that perhaps curriculum and other Senate approved items in these past meeting minutes could be approved outside of the contentious items still under review by the President and Provost.

After a motion at 3:49 pm to create a draft resolution regarding the timely receipt of the President's signing statements and any consequences that would go into effect if that deadline was not met, the discussion turned to the language of that possible resolution. (See January 22, 2021 Zoom meeting, beginning 2:46:00). It was agreed

upon that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee create the draft resolution for the February Senate meeting.

At 3:50 pm, Dr. Preston returned to the meeting and asked to comment (see January 22, 2021 Zoom meeting, beginning 2:58:49). After explaining that his onboarding as the new Provost and the holidays were the cause for the delay, Dr. Preston stated that both he and the President were committed to sending timely responses, further stating that the responses have been drafted and will be sent soon.

Chair Williams reiterated that the Executive Committee would begin work on the draft resolution within the week.

Before turning the meeting over to Ms. Walthour and Mr. Snider from HR, it was requested that a Senate Standing Committee, perhaps the Faculty Development Committee, examine the issue of granting one or more course releases for faculty who are serving in administrative positions such as Program Coordinator and/or Graduate Coordinator, especially for Graduate Coordinators who do not receive any course releases. Chair Williams stated that he would pass this on to the FDC.

I remain committed to working with the UWG faculty and providing timely responses to Faculty Senate minutes. I have returned signed responses to previous Faculty Senate minutes from September 11, 2020, October 16, 2020, and December 4, 2020; these were returned on January 26, 2021.

C) New Procedure for Processing Faculty Search Applications, Terri Walthour and Rodney Snider, Human Resources (Figure 3)

OneUSG Careers goes live on February 1 and will serve as the applicant tracking system for UWG recruiting activities by performing EO/AA applicant data collection, overseeing and administering most recruiting actions in Careers, and serve as the primary source of faculty search records and reporting. Terri Walthour and Rodney Snider provided an overview of the new process for faculty searches and hiring. (See January 22, 2021 Zoom meeting, beginning 3:11:54 as well as Figure 3 materials).

I have no comment.