



MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Faculty Senate
FROM: Dr. Brendan B. Kelly, President
RE: President's Response to Senate Actions
DATE: July 29, 2021

Following is my response to the actions of the Faculty Senate as represented in the minutes of the meeting of June 11, 2021, which were approved electronically on June 18, 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 III: Academic Policies Committee (Emily McKendry-Smith, Chair)

Action Item:

- A) Shared Faculty Governance Procedures for Academic Policies and the Faculty Senate Academic Policies Committee (Figure 1)
Request: Approve

Item approved unanimously.

I accept this motion.

Information Item:

- A) Jennifer Edelman will serve as chair of the Academic Policies Committee for the 2021-2022 Academic Year.

I thank Dr. Edelman for serving as the Chair of the Academic Policies Committee for the 2021-2022 Academic Year.

Committee X: Rules Committee (Angela Branyon, Chair)

Action Item:

- A) *UWG Policies and Procedure Manual* (Figure 2)
1) Article IV, Section 2. J.
Request: Modify

Item approved with 36 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 abstentions. This item will be brought to the General Faculty for a vote in August 2021 according to Article IV, Section 3 of the UWG Policies and Procedures Manual.

I accept this motion.

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

Action Item:

- A) Policy Proposal for Faculty Handbook Video/Audio Recording and Live Streaming of Classes (Figure 3)
Request: Approve

Incoming Chair of the Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Committee Dr. Swift fielded a few questions about how the Video/Audio Recording and Livestreaming of in person classes affected attendance, and it was determined that attendance policies are written at the discretion of the individual course instructor as per the Faculty Handbook and they can be written in a way that addresses the Video/Audio recording and Livestreaming of any class meeting (see June 11, 2021 Zoom Meeting, beginning at 2:11:35). Dr. Drake confirmed that while the decision to use Cares funding on these classroom upgrades came at the executive level, faculty are not required to implement Video/Audio Recording and Livestreaming into their teaching. Instead, the reasoning was that we would have certain technologies in place as we evolve and progress as an institution.

After some discussion regarding concerns over the usage of the term instructor and whether the language in this proposed policy clearly indicates a faculty member's individual choices, two friendly amendments were proposed to change the proposed language as follows:

"Instructors decide upon the use of new technologies" now reads "Each course instructor decides upon the use of new technologies."

"When faculty choose to record and/or live stream" now reads "When a course instructor chooses to record and/or live stream."

The proposed friendly amendments passed with no objections, and the proposal passed with 36 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.

I affirm the importance of faculty, in coordination with their peers, department chairs, and deans, in applying their professional expertise in appropriate methods of instruction to best enable student learning. As there is no university mandate regarding classroom technology utilization, including video and audio live streaming and recording, the use of technology follows existing university guidelines on ensuring ADA, FERPA, and other requirements. Prior to the development of policy guiding the use of classroom technology, I encourage the Faculty Senate to collaborate with ITS and University Counsel regarding data governance, privacy, access, and other needs. As a result, I return this motion to the Faculty Senate for further consideration.