

Faculty Senate Business Meeting

February 22, 2021

Submitted by K. Craven

Members Present:

Stephanie Adams, Douglas Airhart, Dan Allcott, Michael Allen, Jeremy Blair, Troy Brachey, Chris Brown, Debra Bryant, Wei Tsun Chang, Kris Craven, Dennis Duncan, Mary Lou Fornehed, David Hajdik, Tammy Howard, Janet Isbell, Brian Jones, Christy Killman, Nancy Kolodziej, Matt Langford, Emily Lee, Chad Luke, Ann Manginelli, Lori Maxwell, Jennifer Meadows, Mark Melichar, Holly Mills, Lachelle Norris, David Larimore, Linda Null, Brian Qæppqt. Joseph Ojo, Anthony Paradis, Sally Pardue, Richard Rand, Jeff Roberts, Mike Rogers, Lee Ann Shipley, Troy Smith, Sandra Smith-Andrews, Barry Stein, Holly Stretz, Daniel Swartling, Lenly Weathers, Robert Wilbanks, Zac Wilcox, Kimberly Winkle, Russ Witcher, Jeannette Wolak

Members Absent:

Yun Ding, Steven Frye, Susan Laningham

1. Call to Order

Senate President Holly Stretz called the meeting to order at 3:38 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Senator Rand made a motion to approve the agenda. Senator Smith-Andrews seconded. There was no discussion. The motion was approved.

3. Approval of Minutes (January 25, 2021 Business Meeting) and Notes (February 8, 2021 Meeting with the President)

Senator Smith-Andrews made a motion to approve. Senator Airhart seconded.

Two minor editorial changes were requested. Secretary Craven indicated that these changes have already been made. In item #4 regarding the procedures of the Senate, Senator Airhart asked if there was additional work needed based on the previous discussion about the new BOT

Senate President Stretz asked when the committee should be formed. Voting is scheduled for

Vj g'kuwg'qh'vj g'cr r tqxcn'qh'vj g'pgy 'uwf gpv'qti cpk c'v'p'öVwtpkpi 'Rqkpvö'y cu'f'kuewugf 0"
Senator Smith-Andrews said that the Administrative Council was required to approve the application and were told that it would be hard to deny the group since they had cleared all of the hurdles of the process. Issues that were discussed include the fact that the presenters of the application seemed to avoid certain questions and possibly misrepresent their connection to the national organization, Turning Point USA. Some of the Administrative Council members were aware of the national organization bylaws and were concerned that the bylaws submitted by the TTU group did not match. They used language that seemed to indicate an openness to all points of view, but some members of the council were not convinced and wished to vote against approval. However, the council members did not approve of the way they were treated and told that they essentially had to vote in favor.

Senator Shipley discussed the situation from the agenda that came from an article in the Herald Citizen. This information is included in the supplemental materials section for this Business Meeting.

There was further discussion about a desire to see the by laws of the group and the formal process for approving new student organizations. What is the role of Student Affairs in the process? If the Administrative Council was essentially required to approve because the students had completed the correct process, then why is there a need for an official vote? There is concern about limiting student organizations from being formed, where is the line between acceptable and unacceptable. If the organization does not abdicate violence and is not participating in hate speech, do we have a right to deny them? Some Senators expressed that the university needs to assure that they will protect other faculty and students if there is a threat in the future.

Senator Paradis presented a project that he is starting and would be interested in collaborating with other Senators to help get it going. It started by working with athletes on campus with their nutrition. Now he is wanting to expand and offer similar consultation to other faculty and students on campus. He has had a hard time getting support and is considering expanding into the community. He indicated that the service would be no cost to the participants and is covered on our Blue Cross Blue Shield insurance. His current goal is to start a grassroots movement.

Returning to the approval of student organizations, who is responsible for doing the evaluation of the organization and whether they are a group we want to have associated with the university. Discussion is healthy, but how do we know if the intention includes ties to offensive practices. What trap doors are we willing to open? Is this a good test case for future approvals? It was stated that the Administrative Council meeting was interesting and it appeared to some that the presenters were not transparent about the groups purpose and not appropriately prepared for the meeting. There was a definite negative tone in regards to voting against approval.

Is it better to have them meeting on campus with a faculty advisor as opposed to off-campus with no mentor? Is it stepping on the rights of some to give privileges to others? There were

additional questions regarding funding. One reason to have a formal and approved student organization is to have access to university funding opportunities. What happens to any money held by the organization if it is dissolved. In this instance, the bylaws say that it will not go to the national organization. The Senators felt this was a positive thing. However, many of them felt they were being reprimanded by the Dean of Students for having reservations about approving the charter. They are requesting that we invite the Dean of Students to attend the next