

UNIVERSITY SENATE
Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2022

The University Senate was called to order at 3:30 p.m., Remote Access, on Monday January 24, 2022. Members absent: Kenya Ash, Rodney Coates, Eli Davies, Todd Edwards, Jennifer Fox, Anna Ghazaryan, Shashi Lalvani, Vada Stephens, Adam Strantz, and Harvey Thurmer

Call to Order and Announcements

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:30 with Announcements and Remarks by Chair of University Senate Executive Committee, Jennifer Green:
 - a. In-person meetings for University Senate will be considered later in the semester, but due to continuing concerns of COVID-19 all Senate sessions will remain in remote for the foreseeable future.
 - b. Shared in the most recent Provost Communication, the Dean of Students has developed language to be used in communicating Duty to Report along with links to additional resources for class syllabi.
 - c. Senate working sessions will continue to meet in off weeks of Senate; Tamise Ironstrack and Helaine Alessio coordinate those sessions. Questions and suggestions should be directed to them.

Approval of University Senate Minutes

2. Approval of Senate Minutes:
 - a. A motion was received and seconded to approve the November 22, 2021 University Senate Minutes. Minutes were approved. (Yes 40: No 1: Abstain 1)

Consent Calendar

3. The following items were accepted and received on the Consent Calendar:
 - a. Liberal Education Committee Meeting Minutes – 11.22.21
 - b. 2020-2021 Faculty Welfare Annual Report

Special Reports

4. Special Report presentations:
 - a. Academic Program Evaluation, Improvement, and Prioritization Update (APIEP) – Carolyn Haynes, Senior Associate Provost
 - This was a program aimed at the evaluation of programs to create a high quality and sustainable portfolio of academic program offerings. Vetted by Senate, it was led by a committee which included both Senate and faculty representatives.
 - Plans were reviewed and approved by deans, with the Provost offering input when it was requested.
 - The evaluation addressed key issues within workload policies and curricular action plans, along with strategies to enhance enrollment, advance student success outcomes, streamline curriculum, promote cost effectiveness, generate revenue, and enhance faculty support.
 - Departments will need to complete a report by the end of May which will articulate strategies, tactics, and metrics that will be implemented to improve their academic programs. Workshops will be offered in the spring for those that may want assistance on enhancing their plans.

Q: What did we find out about the measuring device used in the process, so that we can pull better information?

A: It is important to interpret the data with flexibility. The data is not a complete picture but allows for the opportunity to discuss possibilities and to improve how things are done moving forward and to guide future decisions.

b. Honors College Update – Rosemary Pennington, Professor and Honors College Advisory Committee Meeting

- Advisory Committee spent the fall semester discussing what they thought the defining characteristics of the Honors College should be in order to create a better framework within honors college courses.
- The committee consists of staff, faculty, and students across different disciplines at Miami.
- Agreed on three characteristics which define the essence of a college course:
 - Students should engage with research actively.
 - Students should make connections of concepts outside of the classroom.
 - Honors courses should have some form of student directed learning component.
- The Advisory Committee plans to discuss an assessment process to ensure courses deliver the experiences that benefit students.

Q: Will guidelines potentially reduce the number of courses that are available, due to an inability to meet the criteria?

A: It is not believed that enrollment will decrease, since most of the criteria are met already. This process is meant to formalize those requirements.

Q: Will these classes have a review process in order to maintain the honor section?

A: This is still be evaluated, but any assessment process should ensure that the honors classes are meeting the defined characteristics.

c. Faculty Research Grants – Rick Page, Special Assistant to the VP for Research and Innovation

- The revamped Faculty Research Grants Program provides updates to the current program.
- Revisions allow for:
 - better flexibility to fit the budget to research, and the applicant determines what the need may be;
 - Salary support includes summer or academic year salary or course buyouts, travel if it directly supports the proposed research and scholarship, and participant costs;
 - Evaluations of proposals will be based on criteria that include intellectual merit, approach and originality, impact on scholarship, appropriateness of the budget, and an external funding plan;
 - More information can be found at this website [link](#).

Q: Within the revised plan, will proposals were divided into three disciplinary categories?

A: These revisions should allow the University to support multiple programs and increase external funding.

Q: How are academic year salary versus summer salary, and course buyout handled?

A: To buy out a course, a faculty member would request an academic year salary by discussing with your chair and dean; it would depend on how easily the department would be able to replace the courses taught with another instructor. Summer salary would depend on specific research needs.

Q: How would graduate student tuition payment would work?

A: Previously with a faculty research grant, a research graduate assistantship, which covered the stipend for the student and the tuition waiver, showed how much it would

cost to have a student on that project. This new process doesn't change this but is more transparent.

- d. RCM 3.0 – David Ellis, Associate VP for Budgeting & Analysis and Lindsay Carpenter, Associate VP for Budgets and Analytics
- RCM Committee is composed of Associate Deans, budget managers from the divisions, finance and business services, and representatives from Provost's Office. Routine revisions of the budget model are completed every four years; however, RCM 3.0 was delayed in part due to the pandemic but will begin in FY22-FY25.
 - This revision attempts to model financial responsibility and accountability, strategy and efficiency, transparent, equitable and fair, and agile and forward thinking.

Q: Will this be aligned with the fiscal year that ends June 30th, meaning positive variances will be available to the deans July 1st?

A: This will be reviewed on October 15. In the event that it is positive, it is anticipated that any FY22 surplus will be returned.

Adjournment

- 5) Meeting was adjourned.