Faculty Assembly Meeting Minutes

21 January, 2025

4:30 – 6:00

Present: Jason Opal, Dawn Kitchen, Steve Abedon, Amy Brunell, Terri Bucci, Mirel Caibar, Cynthia Callahan, Mollie Cavendar, Sergie Chmutov, Ozeas Costa, Kip Curtis, Joe Fahey, Donna Farland-Smith, Glenn Hartz, Jamison Kantor, Elizabeth Kolkovich, Carol Landry**,** Del Lindsey, Phil Mazzocco, Agus Munoz-Garcia, Dennis Shaffer, Kate Shannon, Heather Tanner, John Thrasher, Terri Winnick, Faith Wyzgoski, Gabe Karns, Michelle Kowalski, Tara Hines, Amy Hiner

Due to the closing of campus, the meeting was held entirely virtually.

**I.** **Approval of December 4, 2024 FA Minutes**

Jamison made a motion to approve the 05 December 5, 2024 meeting minutes. Phil Mazzocco seconded the motion. There was one typo: “purse” instead of “pursue.” Kip made the change. The minutes were approved with 13 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 3 abstentions.

**II. Committee Reports**

* 1. Resource Stewardship—Chair, Terri Winnick. The committee has not met yet but have a planned meeting soon.
  2. Student Support & Enrichment—Chair, Agus Munoz-Garcia. SS&E had their first meeting Friday, January 17th. They discussed two items: Organization of the Student Research Frenzy, which will occur February 18th during the common hour. The committee discussed various ways to increase student participation like sending follow-up emails, alternative food items, and contacting the student clubs. They also discussed awards and ways to get a permanent funding source for the awards.

Cynthia brought up that Chris Kick can get advertisements for the Student Research Frenzy and other events into the social media feed.

* 1. Teaching & Learning—Chair, Mirel Caibar. First meeting will be January 22nd. Reminder that the committee will host brown bag session next Thursday, January 30th common hour, in Ovalwood 100.
  2. PDC—members, Del & Glenn—The PDC discussed the academic ombuds position that Jason would like to appoint. Jason clarified that the idea is to have an Academic Ombuds who listens to issues/concerns that come up between students and faculty. The appropriate recompense for the work required of this position would be one course per year. The (PDC) committee thought it was a good idea but there are so few faculty members to add—so we should take that into consideration.

**III. Faculty Senate Reports**

*University Senate Report, Donna Farland Smith*— The proposal to establish the Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture and Society was approved by the Council on Academic Affairs at its Dec 11, 2024 meeting. The proposal is an exception to current Center rules in that it is requesting to have its own tenure initiating authority and offer its own curricula. This proposal was discussed at the January 9th faculty Council meeting and will be voted on at the Jan 23rd Senate meeting. Major concerns about this proposal include the long-term and short-term fiscal projections for the center. Council on Academic Affairs has discussed the need for Senators to have access to draft APT and bylaws. As of 1/21/2025 these documents have not been received.

Discussion surrounded where the money will come from given the 10 faculty that are expected to be hired in 2025, how the Senators were likely to vote, and who makes the decisions on the hires.

*Arts & Sciences Senate Report: Senator Heather Tanner--* There were 4 scheduled ASC Senate meetings this semester. At the first, Jan. 29, we will have brief announcements about the new SLDS system AIM5, graduate fellowships (impact of new policies responding to anti-affirmative action), but that the focus would be on discussing actionable steps regarding SB1 as they related to the GEC and untagged bachelor degrees.

**IV. Campus Curriculum Conversation**

Kip Curtis had several updates.

--Plans to make smaller groups of faculty to meet and have conversations regarding GE clusters. Will have an announcement regarding about those soon.

--Need 2 people to serve with Ozeas on the Nominations committee for the Executive Council

--Need 3 faculty members for a POA revisions committee—Amy Brunell will be part of that committee.

--Executive and FA meetings—will have 1 a month—email Kip if you want anything on the agenda.

Some discussion concerned how time-consuming this would be for faculty. Jason clarified that he expects only a few minor changes to the POA.

**V. COAM Amy Brunell**

Academic Integrity—Pointed out several things.

--A lot of people ignore it.

--Only way you are protected is if you go through the process.

--Alleged cheating is a violation to the student code of conduct

--COAM is part of the University Senate—students are violating the student process and that it is fair, reasonable, and proportionate.

--3 routes for students: Administrative Decision, Panel hearing, and administrative hearing

--There may be discipline sanctions, grade sanctions, and educational sanctions.

Ways to prevent academic misconduct:

--Establish clear and fair policies and expectations

--Communicate the policies and expectations clearly

--Lock down exams

--Amy asked for people to reach out to her.

Impression of students is that we do not care about this.

Occurring more in lower-level classes

Will pass along the directions for downloading the academic integrity icons to Carmen.

There was some discussion of pushback being overly legalistic.

**VI. Dean’s Report--Dean and Director, Jason Opal**

Weather—School is closed tomorrow, January 21st.

Moving forward, looking at a framework for considering closing. Wants there to be a framework so that it is not subjective.

A couple of updates—looking into how we get OSU resources working for us—food pantry—OSU extension school will help us with this to work at the pantry and educate. Office of strategic enrollment—much more at our disposal to use.

This week we received the report on inspection of core academic buildings. Soon to be some landscaping and a flag in front of Molyet.

Regarding Gen Ed—

Wants to get working groups to discuss GE clusters.

Ombudsperson position is for the occasional case where a student has a complaint about the faculty member. Jason wants a trusted faculty member to take this position and provide the necessary guidance between faculty member and student.

Listen to these concerns when they do arise (*e.g*., student is upset about something because they were unclear, student did not get the syllabus correct and there is some clarification regarding it). Ombudsperson intervenes and helps to provide clarity to both sides improve it, how do we clarify things and provide context to both student and faculty member. There is a better way to go about it and listening to the student.

There was some discussion concerning the appointment of limited faculty to more committees (*i.e.,* GE cluster, POA revisions) and clarification that the Ombudsperson would not count toward “extra” service as the recompense is a one-course reduction/year.

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**VII. Associate Dean’s Report – Dean Kitchen**

Dean Kitchen wanted to remind folks that the STEAM event is on for February 14th. Six schools bringing 20 students so far. Thanked everyone in advance—great way to show off the campus. Want to make sure that a variety of disciplines are represented as this is a great recruitment event.

There was some discussion of the lack of number of tenure track faculty we have and how we need to invest in human capital, especially with the number of people retiring over the next 5 years.

It was mentioned that we need to grow enrollment in order to sustain/increase tenure track faculty and tenure track to associated faculty ratios, and to offset the tenure track faculty retirement expected over the next five years.

There was also discussion about teaching loads, how to sustain them, and equity across campuses. Associate Dean Kitchen mentioned that the new Deans in Columbus are trying to figure out ways to reduce disparities in terms of teaching loads across campuses.

**VI. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 5:58pm.