Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2021
4:00-6:00 p.m.

**Attending senators:** Taylor Acee, Stacey Bender, Dale Blasingame, Rachel Davenport, Peter Dedek, Jennifer Jensen, Lynn Ledbetter, Ben Martin, Stan McClellan, Roque Mendez, Danette Myers, Andrew Ojede, Michael Supancic, Nicole Wesley

**Attending guests:** Kristy Daniels,William DeSoto, James Keefe, Ruby Kishan, Judy Oskam, Aimee Roundtree, Karen Sigler

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

**President’s Academic Advisory Group Debrief** – Senator Ledbetter

Senator Ledbetter asked for feedback and opinions of last week’s meeting with President Trauth and PAAG.

* A senator alerted everyone to an email from the university, which named a new chief of police. The senator served on the selection committee and was pleased with the hire of Matthew Carmichael.
* Eric Algoe’s campus security presentation from last week will be posted on the Senate website and included in the next Senate bulletin.
* A senator raised concerns about the Rapid Response Team category of Reputation Issues in Algoe’s presentation. He particularly had concerns over physical and sexual assault accusations being listed under the category of Reputation Issues.
* A senator said she was surprised to not be aware of many of the security measures on campus detailed last week. She believes the university’s communication priority is students, and they may be overlooking faculty communication. Overall, she was reassured with the measures outlined last week. Senator Ledbetter asked if this presentation is made during Bobcat Days and other student events. The senator believes Algoe mentioned that this information is shared with students.
* A senator said reputation issues based on misinformation could become true crisis situations or emergencies. The previous senator said his main concern was listing physical and sexual assault accusations under reputation issues.
* A senator raised a concern about security posters not being updated in classrooms yet. He also called for more communication from the university. He’s hopeful the new police chief will help with this issue.
* A senator encouraged everyone to go to the University of Oregon’s police website to see what our incoming police chief has done there. He was pleased with the level of transparency and being forward facing with communication. Carmichael said, in his interview, that he wants to be a resource for students and the community.
* A senator said he, as an organization advisor, recently took a risk management training that student organization leaders must also take. He felt the training was informative, so he said student leaders, at least, have access to campus safety information.

**PAAG Questions** – Senator Ledbetter

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, the Senate’s next meeting is December 1 with PAAG. Senator Ledbetter asked for suggestions of topics for discussion.

* A senator said FDL funding distribution could be a topic, including whether leftover funds can be put into supplemental funding for strong candidates. Senator Ledbetter said she would prefer the Senate discuss this together before bringing it to PAAG.
* A senator raised a concern about nontenure line faculty only being able to request a course release or two instead of a true developmental leave like tenured faculty. Senator Ledbetter said the Senate would also discuss this.
* A senator again raised the issue of an email to the entire campus from the athletic director, which apologized for the football team’s recent performance. Another senator said the email was likely in response to the head coach and assistant coaches being seen laughing on the sidelines during a blowout loss. Another senator said she was most disturbed by wording in the email that more money would be put into athletics. Another senator asked about funding, in general, for the athletic department. Another senator raised a concern regarding student service fees and athletics. She earlier asked the provost directly about this, and he said he would send details about how those fees are divided up. A senator provided a link that shows this breakdown.
* Senator Ledbetter said the Senate could ask about the Regents meeting and the proposed tuition increase. She asked senators to think about this over the following days. She also raised the possibility of treating the next PAAG session as an exit interview for President Trauth. A senator said, if we did that, we’d need to word questions carefully to avoid a standard list of accomplishments the university has provided.

**Faculty Development Leave Process Discussion** – Senator Ledbetter

Based on discussions during last week’s Executive Session and concerns raised in this meeting, Senator Ledbetter wanted to have a conversation regarding FDL applications and the overall evaluation process.

* A senator said it was helpful to see the overall, merged results of Senate scores for candidates. She asked if the Senate learns which candidates eventually receive supplemental funding. Notifications are sent once approved. There will be only 10 awards given and 37 applicants this year.
* A senator asked about the possibility of moving funding to award fewer FDL applications, making that more competitive, and providing more funding to the supplemental awards, which would reward those who had better applications.
* Senator Ledbetter raised concerns from senators about the amount of work that goes into evaluating these applications and whether it’s necessary, considering all applications get funded. She also raised a suggestion of changing how the Senate ranks applications. She encouraged Senators to think about this issue from both sides – evaluating them as a Senate and from the perspective as a faculty member applying.
* A senator said he noticed some who only requested a semester of funding had better applications than those who requested supplemental, whole-year funding. He wondered if there’s a way to address that.
* A senator asked what difference changing our ranking structure would make if the Senate’s rankings do not impact funding.

This issue will be discussed further on the December 1 meeting.

Minutes from the November 10 meeting were approved.

The Senate went into Executive Session and suspended its rules to approve several items:

* Dr. David Donnelly (Physics) was approved to fill the remainder of Dr. Joaquin Palacios’s term on the Academic Governance Committee.
* Senators Bell-Metereau, Davenport and Jensen were approved to serve on the FDL Supplemental Review Committee.
* The Senate approved funding recommendations from the University Lecturers Committee for the spring semester.