

**FACULTY SENATE COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2019
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Officers: Marcus Alfred-Chair; Lynne Kelly, Vice-Chair; Sam Paschall, Acting-Secretary

At Large Members: Eric Walters (Medicine); John Tharakan (Engineering); George Middendorf (COAS); Jahn O'Neil (Medicine); Sonya Smith (Engineering); Mercedes Tibbits (COAS); Krishna Kumar (Pharmacy)

School/College Representatives and Alternates: Sam Paschall (Business); Courtney Robinson (COAS); Jean Bailey (Education); James Jackson (alternate-Education); Martha Davila-Garcia (Medicine); Chimene Castor (Nursing & Allied Health); Alex McSwain (Alternate-Fine Arts)

Immediate Past Chair: Sonya Sobrian (Medicine)

FACULTY SENATE MEMBERS PRESENT: Taft Broome (Engineering); Mohsen Mosleh (Engineering); Vernon Bond (Graduate Faculty COAS); Youness Karodeh (Pharmacy); Eleanor Kling (COAS)

CALL to ORDER

Marcus Alfred, Chair of the Faculty Senate Council, called the meeting to order at 2:13 p.m.

In his opening remarks he welcomed the Council to a new academic year, thanked them for their involvement, and acknowledge Sonya Sobrian, the immediate past president. Dr. Alfred also introduced Sam Paschall, who he has selected as Acting Secretary pursuant to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Senate, until a University-wide election to fill the position is held.

APPROVAL of AGENDA

A MOTION to pass the Agenda, which was made by _____ and seconded by _____ was approved by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL of MINUTES

A MOTION to approve the Minutes from the June 10, 2019 Meeting of the Faculty Senate Council was made by Dr. Tibbits and seconded by Dr. Smith. The Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

STEERING COMMITTEE ELECTION

The Chair noted that all representatives and alternates are eligible for election to the Steering Committee. He distributed a list of eligible members for election and a list of those eligible to vote. A discussion of the role of the Steering Committee was requested by Dr. Walters. The Chair provided valuable perspective. Voting began immediately thereafter.

ISSUES AGENDA

The Chair reviewed the 2018-19 Issues Agenda. He also brought attention to discussion group submissions and a discussion began pertaining to whether or not particular discussion group submissions should be added to the Issues Agenda for the current academic year.

Dr. King informed the Council that numerous faculty who were displaced by the Spring 2018 “steam events” have yet to recover personal items and materials, including files, artwork, and books, that were removed from their offices. Faculty have made numerous written requests to the Office of the Provost but have not received responses. The facility in Upper Marlboro that housed the remaining materials affected has now been closed for several months.

Dr. Walters noted that the urgency of such a matter might require a letter from the Chair to the Provost, rather than adding the matter to

the Issues Agenda, which would require a vote by the Faculty Senate.

Another urgent matter from the discussion group submission pertained to the lack of faculty involvement in the administration's decision to separate the School of Fine Arts from the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. McSwain reported that the dean of the School of Fine Arts had informed the faculty that the separation "is a done deal" and the School of Fine Arts would again become a separate College. Although this is a significant reorganization, the decision was made without any faculty input or collaboration whatsoever. Dr. Middendorf and Mr. Paschall spoke to the importance of challenging the procedural aspects of the decision-making process, even if faculty view the outcome as desirable. Dr. Broome spoke to the impact of the autonomy of the School of Fine Arts on its accreditation.

Further discussion occurred regarding whether the issues regarding the inability of faculty to recover items from the administration and the separation of the School of Fine Arts should be placed on the Issues Agenda and/or be included in a summary letter from the Chair to the Faculty (and the Provost) in which he raises urgent matters.

A MOTION was made by (Kumar?)----- and seconded by Dr. Smith to adopt the Issue Agenda from 2018-19 (except with the deletion of the parking issue) and to add to the Issue Agenda the matters discussed above pertaining to faculty retrieval of items and the School of Fine Arts. The MOTION passed unanimously and the Agenda will be forwarded to the Faculty Senate.

The Chair stated that he would also address the matters of the retrieval of items in a letter to the Provost.

NEW BUSINESS

After a MOTION by _____ and a second by _____, the required two-thirds vote was reached to discuss new business.

Dr. Walters raised the systemic problems that students are facing in obtaining Federal and financial aid.

Dr. Middendorf raised the issue of faculty salaries and if and how salaries had been adjusted by the President. He recommended that the Chair ask the President directly. Dr. Walters added that faculty performance evaluation is connected to this issue and noted that some faculty have received raises but that there has been a lack of transparency from the administration on the matter.

Dr. Middendorf also recommended that the Council support students in their efforts to increase attention to climate change and other environmental issues and noted the lack of recycling on campus.

The chair acknowledged the issues and stated that he would address urgent matters.

The Chair discussed the importance of presenting the concerns in some sort of tangible form, for example in the online discussion forum, so that concerns are well-documented.

ADJOURNMENT

After a motion by _____ and a second by _____, the Council unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at approximately 3:30 p.m.