

Kutztown University Kutztown, Pennsylvania
UNIVERSITY SENATE MINUTES
<http://www.kutztown.edu/about-ku/administration/university-senate.htm>
NOVEMBER 2, 2017
ACADEMIC FORUM 202

Present: H. Alviani, A. Arnold, D. Aruscavage, D. Beougher, M. Cardozo, A. Christman, K. Clair, J. Conahan, A. M. Cordner, R. Courtney, D. Slack (for S. Dewey), S. Doll-Myers, R. Flatley, M. Gallagher, J. Garcia, G. Gober (for M. Gober), K. Hawkinson, K. Hudak, D. Immel, J. Jedwab, M. John, D.A. Johnson, D.B. Johnson, E. Johnson, E. Kraal, D. Lea, P. McLoughlin, L. Moss, F. Murshed, E. Nieves, L. Norris, R. Perkins, A. Pfeiler-Wunder, R. Portada, V. Reidout, S. Riley, M. Scheuing, T. Stahler, M. Vaughn, A. Vogel, F. Wei, D. Wingrove, T. Wong, A. Zayaitz, J. Tan (for Y. Zhang)

Absent: R. Gross, M. Johnston, D. Lee, G. Muugi, W. Rogers, J. Ronan, C. Walck

Guests: A. Carroll, J. Downing, W. Hilton, L. Kowalski, G. Silberman, C. Wells, T. Witryk

I. Call to Order

University Senate President A. Arnold called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM.

II. Announcements – A. Arnold

A. Arnold asked L. Norris for Announcements

A. Election: Senate Representative to Enrollment Management Committee: Senate needs to elect a new representative to this body. A. Christman, Chair of Senate Election Committee, has agreed to run this election via email. If interested in representing Senate on this important committee, email her at achristman@kutztown.edu. Nominations will be taken for two weeks, with an email vote to follow quickly.

A. Arnold: Reminder elections for Vice President and Secretary will be at the December meeting.

B. Condolences: Vice President J. Ronan is absent from today's meeting due to the death of his father-in-law. Senators wish to express their sincere condolences to John and his family.

III. Approval of the Minutes – A. Arnold

A. M. Cordner moved to accept Oct. 5, 2017 Minutes; second R. Courtney. Substantive corrections? None; Minutes approved.

IV. President, Committee Task Force Reports: -

A. Senate President's Report – A. Arnold

1. A. Arnold reminded Senators to arrive promptly.

2. General Education: a struggle to move from a discipline-based program to a more flexible, student-centered one. The goal is to engage students such that they desire to learn more. Such a significant change is a great challenge. We can engage students in new ways rather than "race to the bottom" in competition for students.

3. New Business: Begin to consider "First Week Problem" - take to constituents for their input for D2L discussion board and December meeting.

B. Senate Vice President's Report – J. Ronan

No report.

C. University President's Report – K. Hawkinson

1. Good news:

a. KU has received \$500,000 from the Goals/Assist organization, currently assisting 25 students to graduate debt-free.

b. KU Foundation having a great year, raised almost 2.5 million already. Anticipate 5 million by end of fiscal year. It is paying for a Hampton Inn, to open Spring 2019. \$600,000 has also been raised for scholarships.

c. Freshman applicants up about 25% over last year; well over three times as many deposits as this time last year. This is thanks to new marketing, recruitment strategies & Admissions practices. K. Hawkinson thanked Admissions and faculty for their greater involvement in recruitment.

2. Budget: Current deficit rose from 4.4 to 5.9 million due to unanticipated increase. With next year's raises, deficit projected to rise to 8.5 million. Will need to lobby for increased funds from state, tuition, and especially must recruit and retain more students.

D. Student Government Board (SGB) Report: – M. Gallagher

1. SGB budget committee is reviewing student club requests.
2. The House of Representatives meeting: leaders of all organizations & advisors will meet twice in November to address concerns. This is new.
3. SGB Executive is meeting to address website redesign
4. KU hosted SGB leaders from across PASSHE for a very successful conference.
5. Paint the Town Gold begins Nov. 6. 12 businesses and residences are participating.
6. Fall Festival is Nov. 12 on DMZ; student organizations, food, etc.

Discussion:

- D.B. Johnson: What about Homecoming? M. Gallagher was Homecoming Queen.
- K. Hawkinson: Largest turnout for Homecoming ever.
- A. Zayaitz: stadium was packed; 2-3,000 stayed outside stadium
- D. Slack: asked for notification of times/locations for House of Reps meetings.

V. Unfinished Business - A. Arnold

KU's Core Marketing/Identity:

Research identified KU's core strength: showing students they're capable of far more than they realize. All at KU - faculty, staff, managers, students - share responsibility "to maintain a dynamic, supportive environment where hard work and integrity thrive." Important as we move forward together.

VI. New Business - A. Arnold

General Education Discussion

L. Norris summarized the most recent Gen Ed Redesign Meeting:

M. Eicholtz reported on meeting with Chairnet (overwhelmed with implementation; especially First Year Seminar (FYS)); LAS CC (want more specific disciplines; not in student interest); University Q/A (not positive but good feedback).

M. Eicholtz revised the Narrative to include feedback; Committee to consider at next meeting. Due to feedback and revision, revised timeline:

Final draft now to UCC by Nov. 16 to consider at its Nov. meeting; Senate, APSCUF in December.

A. Arnold: asked Senators to consider what their groups need in order for Gen Ed to succeed? This holds for students, faculty, administrators, SCUPA, Library.

Discussion:

L. Norris: BFA students will go from 39-42 Gen Ed credits, making it impossible to complete a minor with 120 credits. This impacts hundreds of students.

J. Garcia: FYS - who will teach? What about a collaboration: faculty/admin/student affairs?

A. Arnold: great idea; parallels team approach in fields like medicine and law.

E. Kraal: Physical Sciences colleagues researched FYS at state schools. Typically, FYS capped at 19. Most are strictly academic and supported by others for skills development.

-dept. wants a plan for assessment prior to implementation

E. Kraal personally did the Summer Start program. FYS takes a lot from Summer Start.

- recommends reducing 9 outcomes to 4.
- is FYS an Orientation or Academic program? Can't succeed at both.
- Commends the Committee for its hard work and respectfully suggests an Academic FYS. FYS needs to be a transformative experience in keeping with KU's core identity.

L. Norris: Currently FYS to be capped at 30. Departments/faculty across campus want FYS to be centered on Academic.

A. Arnold: With team support for the Orientation components.

T. Wong: Orientation portions can also happen through activities, Learning Communities, etc.

V. Reidout: Team approach already being done. CASA presence in a dorm; a more robust Orientation at start of school; support of Residential Life staff. Encourages this team approach.

L. Frye: Is there assessment data on UST?

A. Arnold: Summer Start students found program helpful because first semester too intense as is.

K. Clair: questioned implementation of FYS by Fall 2018 as planned.

D. Immel: Music dept. finds FYS problematic especially for Music Ed students; they won't be able to meet their Math/English requirements. Will there be exceptions to this model?

J. Conahan: How is this aligned with retention efforts?

L. Norris: Model designed with retention in mind. Ease of external/internal transfers; expanded opportunity for minors for most students; small FYS to develop relationship with faculty, etc.

D.B. Johnson: Needs details to ensure resources will be provided to support FYS. For example, if most effective faculty should teach FYS, temporary, part-time faculty teach advanced courses. This is problematic for retention of majors.

M. Gallagher: Most students unaware this is happening.

K. Hudak: Committee should have started with student input. At first loved proposed model for its simplicity and flexibility, ease of transferring majors without losing credits. Became fearful at LAS CC meeting when became aware of logistics & now conflicted about the model.

D. Wingrove: emphasized flexibility is key for students. Emphatic that FYS should be Academic; don't coddle students. Improve Orientation but don't make a semester-long course; will be unpopular.

T. Stahler: CoE programs can now offer Gen Ed courses, unlike now. Secondary Ed dept. supports the model; likes its flexibility. Supports an Academic FYS and smaller class size.

A.M. Cordner: Criminal Justice also supports; likes its flexibility.

A. Vogel: Concerned about a "race to the bottom" with competition for students. Mechanism must be put in place to prevent that.

English dept. supports increased Composition component. However, an Administrative Oversight Coordinator for writing across the curriculum is needed to ensure CMP courses meet areas currently covered in ENG 023/024.

E. Johnson: as At-Large representative, concerned that the descriptive categories seem to lack rigor. How will this appear to outside groups? Higher Ed is under scrutiny for lack of rigor. What of parents comparing programs of different schools?

A. Arnold: There are two components in the model. SLOs are to be assessed. Themes are not assessed and create a distributive system.

T. Wong: SLOs somewhat confusing, especially #3 and "data." Theoretically similar to SLO #2.

L. Norris: SLOs #2 and #3 are distinct. "Data" in #3 refers to practices in the social sciences; humanities areas tend to use "information" but both employ critical analysis to interpret.

T. Wong: SLO #8 is not an outcome.

L. Norris: #8 to be assessed upon graduation.

T. Wong: Could we not simplify the model by using SLOs alone and make sure they align with PASSHE and Middle States?

K. Clair: FYS should not be staffed by temporary faculty with short-term contracts. She directly asked Admin to speak to support for adequate staffing.

K. Hawkinson: This is exactly the kind of discussion hoped for and will take all of it under consideration. At previous institution, FYS was implemented and mainly staffed by tenure-track/tenured faculty. Agrees that this is ideal.

M. Vaughn: Sport Management had similar concerns about FYS. Noted HEA 102 is an existing Gen Ed. Is it not approved under the proposed model?

L. Norris: Will look into.

D.A. Johnson: Elem. Ed. fully in favor of FYS; is already doing it. Academics are foregrounded, with activities built in for holistic experience of the university. Most importantly, relationships are forged with faculty fully engaged in FYS. This is great for retention.

A. Arnold: Advocating putting FYS in the major?

W. Rogers: Special Education agrees. FYS in the major connects incoming with existing students; facilitates developing relationships with faculty/peers.

D. Wingrove: Affirms.

S. Mangold: Struggling students need experienced faculty to show them how to succeed academically.

A. Arnold: Agrees in theory about FYS in majors, but won't work for all.

S. Doll-Myers: Comm. Design has concerns with meeting BFA requirements but should be ok.

D. Beougher: Committee discussed at length having FYS in the major. But what about students who change majors? Happens quite frequently. Could be a real staffing problem for smaller departments.

M. Gallagher: Better to keep FYS flexible. It's also good for students to develop relationships across the university.

D. Lea: History dept. is positive about model but has concerns about lack of rigor and lack of specificity in disciplines; no math or lab science requirement. How will SLOs be assessed?

M. John: Sociology has questions about language requirement. Study one language/4 semesters?

D. Beougher: Only 8 programs have a 4-semester language requirement.

R. L. Smith: PASSHE requires that all BA programs have some language requirement.

M. Cardozo: Geography has concerns about staffing due to its small size.

M. Gober: Faculty in Athletics support FYS and like program's ease for transfers.

R. Portada: Political Science also small; similar concerns about staffing.

J. Jedwab: Philosophy has concerns about timeline. Suggests a short-term solution to meet Fall 2018 deadline while taking time to get optimal program in place.

E. Kraal: How will science courses be approved for writing? Physical Sciences concerned about removing lab requirement, going from process to fact learning. Also needs a clear assessment plan before implementation.

L. Frye: How can breadth be assured in this model?

D. Beougher: SLO #8, transcript audits will determine if breadth is being achieved.

T. Wong: FYS must be content heavy to spark student curiosity. Faculty model this by their passion for their fields.

If model focuses on SLO, there will be breadth across the curriculum.

A. Arnold: We've heard from nearly all academic departments and all others who wanted to speak.

L. Norris: Please continue to email me with input from your constituents.

VII. As May Arise

None.

VIII. Adjournment:

With no other business, meeting adjourned, 5:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted:
L. Norris
Secretary, University Senate