

Black Hills State University
Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes for February 21, 2024

Attendance: Skott Chandler, Laura Colmenero-Chilberg, Ron DeBeaumont, Abigail Domagall, Sydney Haugland, Katrina Jensen, Jarrett Moore, Parthasarathi Nag, Nancy Roberts, and Wendy Stewman

Guests: President Steve Elliott, Provost Jon Kilpinen, Student Senate Vice President Bailey Froelich, Student Senate Secretary Cassidy Vandenkoek

Meeting called to order at 3:15 PM.

1. Clery Act
 - a. Provost Kilpinen gave clarification on the University's compliance with the act.
 - b. Regular reporting is required, but it doesn't necessarily need to be published immediately online.
 - c. Skott raised a concern that the student who asked for records was not provided the information they were looking for.
 - d. President Elliott will check with Corey Compton to make sure we are keeping records in compliance with the act.

2. Legislative Updates
 - a. An omnibus bill includes budget requests to support higher education, including support for positions currently supported by the Title III grant. This bill has not yet been passed.
 - b. HB 1213, Sponsored by Representative Scott Odenbach which would establish a Center for Civic Engagement at BHSU passed to the house floor. The bill does not currently have funding attached.

3. Student Travel Policy
 - a. The new policy requiring one student per bed during student travel is a SD BOR level policy.
 - b. The Provost said that the BOR is unlikely to reconsider the policy, despite concerns over increased travel costs.
 - c. Members of faculty senate and student senate expressed concerns over budget and safety.

4. Academic Reorganization
 - a. President Elliott would like to adjust the reorganization model selected by faculty to include Deans for both the School of Education and the School of Business (as opposed to the Associate Deans in the current model).

- b. President Elliott feels this change is needed to build programs and grow enrollment.
 - c. President Elliott and Provost Kilpinen will develop a proposal to bring to the April meeting of the SD BOR.
 - d. President Elliott and Provost Kilpinen will share the new proposal with faculty and hold a meeting to allow faculty to ask questions about the changes.
5. Faculty Absence Policy
- a. Provost Kilpinen explained that the new policy was put in place to be in compliance with HLC.
 - b. Provost Kilpinen explained that when a faculty member must miss class, an alternate activity should be provided, but the activity need not be synchronous. Asking students to work on existing projects or assignments is acceptable.
 - c. Senators expressed concern over not feeling respected to make decisions about their courses.
6. Final Exam Policy
- a. Provost Kilpinen clarified that the policy allows faculty to make exceptions for individual students on a case-by-case basis.
 - b. The list of courses that are exempt from the final exam policy may need to be reviewed and added to.
7. Senate Reorganization
- a. In light of the change to academic reorganization, the plan for the reorganization of Faculty Senate representation needs to be revisited before asking for a vote from faculty.
 - b. Nancy suggested one senator from each of the seven schools plus three senators elected at large from the university.

Nag made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Nancy. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM.

Minutes recorded by Katrina Jensen

Next Meeting: March 6, 2024, at 3:15 PM in the Trump Conference Room.

Minutes unanimously approved on March 20, 2024