August 28, 2017
4:00 p.m.
FS Conference Rm (Rendezvous 301), Meridian 653, IF

In Attendance:

Senators
☒ Laura Ahola-Young ☒ Sonja Launspach ☒ Justin Stover
☒ Jeremy Thomas ☒ Zachary Heern ☒ Kathleen Lane
☒ Jeff Brookman ☒ Paul Watkins (co-chair) ☒ Ellen Ryan
☒ Curtis Anderson ☒ Rene Rodriguez ☒ Hossein Mousavinezhad
☐ Kenneth Moore ☒ Dallen Worthington ☒ Gene Warren (co-chair)
☒ David Blakeman ☒ Carol Kirkpatrick ☒ Marv Sparrell ☒
☒ Barb Mason (telecom) ☒ Kerry Casperson ☒ Cathy Oliphant (telecomm)
☒ Anish Sebastian

Ex-Officio:
☐ Laura Woodworth-Ney ☒ Margaret Jonnson ☒ Kris Clarkson
☒ Jessica Sargent ☐ David Blakeman (see above) ☒ Connie Tillotson (Recorder)

Guests:
☒ Caroline “Smitty” Faure ☐ ☐

Open Forum - None

I. Introductions
Paul asked the senators to introduce themselves (share how long they have been with Faculty Senate, area represented, and how long at ISU). There are a few vacant seats that need to be filled.

II. Guest Speaker – Caroline “Smitty” Faure, Professor/College of Education, and ISU Athletic Representative
Faure “Smitty” was recently appointed by President Vailas as ISU’s new faculty athletic representative replacing Scott Benson. NCAA mandates a faculty athletic representative at each institution regardless of which division they represent. The representative ensures policies are upheld by both the academic departments and the athletic departments. As part of her duties she oversees compliance with both NCAA and Big Sky metrics, is a student advocate, and ensures the student athlete is making academic progress. She will attend coach’s meetings, meet with student athletes, meet with the President, and meet with the EVP/Provost. Smitty shared several handouts and encourages the faculty to contact her if they have any questions.

III. Announcements and Updates

A. Announcements
Watkins asked the senators to look at the Faculty Senate website and the number of resources. He asked them to familiarize themselves with the Bylaws. The role of this body does not mandate policy but can create policy. All the ISU policies put forward are provided to us for feedback commentary and critique. The EVP/Provost is advocating for Faculty Senate to provide input on all academic policies and procedures. The group does not report
B. Senate Chairs’ Report
Watkins said the co-chairs are invited to participate in the President’s Cabinet, Deans Council, IEAC, new faculty orientations, new student orientations as well as a number of other events/committees on campus to represent faculty.
President’s Cabinet – Watkins said the SBOE is the entity in charge of initiating the search for the next president at ISU. They are using a national search firm to initiate the search and organize a search committee. Senators asked about faculty representation on the search committee. Richard Westerberg will serve as the chair of the search committee with Emma Atchley serving as the co-chair. It was suggested communication should be sent to SBOE to request Faculty Senate representation on the search committee. Additionally, there are several other searches underway: 1) CoSE Dean Search (national search firm), 2) Education Dean (no search firm), 3) VP for Student Affairs – Kent Tingey is the chair of the search committee, and 4) Dean for the School of Nursing (unknown if a search firm will be used). It was suggested to have a faculty senator sit on the search committee for the VP for Student Affairs. Interested senators should contact Dr. Kent Tingey, or one of the senate co-chairs.
Stacey Gibson had made a presentation at Cabinet regarding the establishment of a parent’s room for nursing mothers, parents, etc. to have a safe private place. It is available to all faculty, staff, and students. Please share with your faculty.
A series of policies have been shared by General Counsel from the sponsoring area and will undergo their 30-day review period. The Promotion and Tenure policy as well as the Sabbatical Policy are two of those policies which have gone through the 30-day review period and have been presented to and approved by the President’s Cabinet. Margaret shared the Five Year Review policy is still in the review process. The Conflict of Interest Policy has also moved forward for its 30-day review period.
Deans Council – Warren attend the Council of Deans meeting. A memo will go out from administration regarding the RISE complex and some of the related documents. Warren has added a folder to BOX containing the documents shared with him from the Deans meetings and will continue to share future documents in a similar fashion. He has asked and received confirmation that he can share with the senators and they in turn can share with their constituent faculty members.
IEAC – The IEAC oversees the strategic planning for the University. They presented an action plan to for community involvement. The plan will incorporate involvement for the community member, Bannock County, and the University. It will be presented to a future meeting.
C. Update from Academic Affairs
Johnson said Deans Council also discussed the Polytech Institute. ISU received $1.8 million to start the institute in Idaho Falls. Lyle Castle is overseeing. This year they have hired a handful of temporary faculty on a one year appointment. The committee will meet over the next few months to determine the fields that will need to be represented and hired. At least four of the positions will be for nuclear engineering faculty and the remaining five will be other disciplines. The committee is a fairly large committee with representatives from
CoSE, Research, EITC, BYI, and UI. Kandi Turley-Ames and Scott Rasmussen also serve on this committee. They expect to have targeted faculty on board to teach for Fall 2018.

Johnson said Deans Council approved a new proposal from the College of Technology for a pharmacy technology basic technical certificate. It will be forwarded to the State Board for approval.

Accreditation is going through their mid-year review cycle. The self-report and Ad-Hoc report has been submitted to NWCCU. A site visit will take place on October 4/5 on campus.

D. Update from Student Affairs
Clarkson discussed the early intervention program and its effectiveness. Clarkson referenced a card that had been sent out previously and provided another handout to the group. They had asked faculty to provide them with early alerts of students at risk (not attending class, etc.). Core Theme #2 was to increase retention. Northwest encouraged ISU to provide support for students categorized at risk and ensure more outreach. This summer they reviewed the data. Over 500 students were referred to them by faculty either using the “notice of concern” or with a phone call. They met with at least 250 different students.

They have pulled from the data a number of international students that meets the at risk criteria that cannot return since they do not receive a non-residency tuition waiver and faces unmanageable debt. They have also compared the at risk group to the general student population and they are persisting at 75% retention which is 3% better than the general student population. Encourage you and your colleagues to utilize the program. It has made a big difference.

They are inviting Warren Rodell from Oxford England at Oxford Brooks University as a scholar in residence. His area of expertise is human rights and civility. You are welcome to invite him to future groups meetings, dialogue, or to provide presentations. He is also a disputes officer at Oxford Brooks. Reaching out and hoping to meet with deans group and other groups to see how we handle appeals. He would also like to explore the possibility of reciprocity agreements between ISU and Oxford Brooks as well encourage faculty and staff to visit their institution.

Clarkson said the international population is 340 students. Most are Nigerian and Napales students. Majority of them do not have non-resident waivers and some are facing financial hardships to continue. Their countries are also experiencing difficulty and political issues. A questions was asked about non-resident (NR) tuition waivers. There is a limited amount but Clarkson was unaware of how NR waivers are distributed and the metrics for distribution. It was suggested to ask the Provost when she attended the next meeting.

E. ASISU
Jessica Sargent welcomes the opportunity for ASISU to attend the Faculty Senate meetings. Sargent is current a master’s student. She plans to attend as many meetings as possible and believes it serves her constituent group to participate in the meetings since the relationship between faculty and students is so important.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Rotate Meetings in Meridian
Watkins said last semester both he and Blakeman discussed the co-chairs rotating meetings to Meridian or Idaho Falls physically. Both he and Warren is willing to consider this but wanted to get feedback from the senators. Mason thought it was a good idea. This has happened in the past. She suggested also in addition to this to spend time with the faculty at large. Watkins said the senators can consider a faculty forum in Meridian.
B. Frequency of Meetings

Watkins wanted to get a sense of the agenda and frequencies of meetings this semester. Some senates meet once a month and others meet twice a month. The projects and issues addressed at Faculty Senate needs to come from the senators and the constituent groups you represent. **He asked the senators to think about this and can discuss further at the next meeting.**

Worthington had questions as a result of inquiries from faculty members. He would like to have further information why faculty cannot have an option to the PERSI retirement plan. Faculty currently have VALIC and TIAA-CREF but are excluded from PERSI. He has heard the State has to pay an opt-out fee to not offer PERSI to faculty. *[Watkins said they can contact Brian Sagendorf to obtain information about this process.]*

C. Vacancies

Topic discussed earlier in the meeting under updates.

D. Faculty Senate Representation on President’s Search

Topic was discussed earlier in the meeting under updates. It was a unanimous decision to create a declaration to the State Board for faculty senate involvement. **Anderson was asked to draft a declaration to vote on and make official to send to the SBOE.**

E. Faculty Senate Representation on Vice President for Student Affairs Search

Topic discussed earlier in the meeting under updates.

F. Ombuds Representation

Watkins gave a brief history of the Ombuds Program and asked Ahola-Young to provide an update on the charter. Ahola-Young said the charter was approved last year. Academic Affairs will provide financial support for either release time or stipend. Ahola-Young shared Dr. John Gribas had served as the Ombudsman for many years. Changes at the university resulted in the loss of the Ombuds position for approximately 9 years.

Watkins said Academic Affairs has agreed to provide funds for the faculty Ombuds to attend the international ombuds training. He said the senators need to implement a process for securing nominations and a mechanism to evaluate and recommend names to go forward. The ombuds doesn’t report to anyone. The ombuds will summarize a yearly report summarizing activities. It is a generic report without any details. It was suggested to go with one individual initially but we have the option to add another if needed. Last year Faculty Senate has approved asking Cal Edwards to serve as the Ombuds but Edwards plans to retire soon. It was suggested each senator send out a request to their constituent groups asking for nominations. This needs to be a unified statement explaining the role of the faculty Ombuds, term commitment, and general expectation. **Further discussion will be needed. This will be included to the next agenda. Warren asked Tillotson to provide the Charter to the senators.**

G. Migrate Faculty Senate to BOX

Watkins said Faculty Senate agendas, meetings, documents will not be stored on BOX and moving away from Moodle. Google.docs will only be used periodically to edit documents. Watkins also suggested members bring their laptops so changes to documents can be made if needed during the meeting as well as access to the document under discussion.
V. CONTINUING BUSINESS

A. Faculty Professional Policies (FPP) Guidelines-Pending
Kirkpatrick said the document was approved pending changes.

B. Ethics Policy (Approved) – Implement to ISUPP
The Ethics Policy Committee had been submitted to Academic Affairs. Johnson said it has been sent to Legal and to the Diversity Office for feedback. Stacey Gibson asked about enforcement of ethical code. The policy does not address any ramifications. General Counsel made a recommendation to link to the university’s code of ethics and the conflict of interest policy. Should be easy to adjust. Ahola-Young commented that it would not be up to Faculty Senate to address any infraction of the policy. Depending on the circumstances, it could be a variety of different offices that would address the issue. Ahola-Young will update the policy to link to the policies. Johnson said once the policy has be changed, Academic Affairs would like to run past Council of Deans again for their input.

VI. ADJOURNMENT
Meeting adjourned 5:55 p.m.

Approved by Faculty Senate: September 11, 2017