

Representative Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, November 9, 2023 – 6:00 PM
[Zoom Registration Link - Register in advance for this meeting:](#)

Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Forty-four (44) representative senators, faculty, administrators and guests in virtual attendance

1. Call to Order: President Shohreh Amini - 6:02PM
2. Approval of RFS minutes - October 10, 2023: Approved - 6:04PM
3. Guests: Molly Kennelly, Director of TSG Academic Affairs; Rohan Khadka, TSG President; and Macy Trout (co-author of resolution) - Discussion of TSG Textbook Affordability Resolution
 - a. Introduction of Molly Kennelly and Macy Trout by President Shohreh Amini
 - b. Molly and Macy are here to review the “Textbook Affordability Resolution”. Steven Bell, a university librarian, also here to support
 - c. Overview via power point presentation
 - i. Resolution highlights
 - ii. 53% of students don’t purchase books due to costs
 - iii. How do students pursue their passion with the roadblock of textbook costs
 - iv. Students will pay a flat fee rate for “opt in and opt out” options
 - v. Open education resources – open stacks
 - vi. eBooks are a very helpful resource with the resources library includes
 - vii. Would like to have a conversation with Faculty Senate and look at options
 - viii. Would like the faculty senate to vote on the resolution and participate
 - d. Question: Is there a plan to discuss with Dan Berman
Response: Not yet - want to discuss with Faculty Senate first
 - e. Question: Are we headed to a direction where all knowledge is free?
Response: Programs that provide flat fee means students are paying less not that the author is getting less
Comment: Assigning old editions to limit costs for the students; for some economic courses it is the course that comes with the book we want; Is there a statement of resolution
Comment: Depending on the major, some old editions may be too dated to use
Comment: Online versions of textbooks get purchased by the library and made available to the students for free

Comment: McGraw Hill connect resources and text are particularly great for big classes

Comment: Thank you to all faculty how have participated in this project, faculty is very appreciated when the library pays for and provides an eBook version they use

Comment: TSG working on trying to find the correct resources; there is a database to find what resources other professors are using

Question: Do you want the Faculty Senate to vote on this resolution?

Response: Yes

4. President's Report: Shohreh Amini

a. Review of Board of Trustee meeting last month; safety, student enrollment were items reviewed.

b. Opportunity to meet with search firm; we now have a search firm; search firm is now taking over; member of advisory board, reading our reactions; Pedro Ramos, long term as a city leader; by spring semester there will be candidate identified.

c. Met with President Englert yesterday; invited to come to steering committee and UFS in December

d. Provost Greg Mandel and Vice Provost Richard Souvenir also invited to December meeting

Questions: Presidential Search process of opening it up to more faculty – having small group to do this still a possibility

e. Internal search committee is effective and is headed by Board of Trustees (BOT) chair Mitch Morgan and the BOT

f. Effectiveness of online and hybrid courses; Provost and Presidents office to bring criteria for online and hybrid courses; should have more information in 7 – 10 days.

i. Will each college be involved and visited in this?

ii. We need to look at domestic and online

5. Vice President's Report: Mike Bognanno
 - a. Committee vacancies (see attached documents)
6. Old Business: No old business
7. New Business: Question: How are individual colleges effectively addressing questions and concerns from Faculty Senate back to their colleges?

Response: We are looking at ways other colleges are doing this for best way to communicate
8. Adjournment: 7:08PM

Next Meeting:

University Faculty Senate meeting, Wednesday, December 6, 1:45 pm. Hybrid meeting:

Via Zoom and in person, Center for Anti-Racism, Room 140 Mazur Hall

Meeting minutes respectively submitted by Rick Ridall, Faculty Senate Steering Committee Secretary.