CAS Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2015


Senators absent: A. Fiscella, S. Patel.

The meeting was called to order by President Fox at 4:00 PM.

Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda

   Sen. Morgan made a request that Sec. Galileo be allowed a couple of minutes to update the Senate on CAS representation in the University Senate after the President’s remarks. There was no objection and the agenda was approved unanimously.

2. Approval of minutes from the March Meeting (click here)

   Sec. Galileo noted that Sen. Morgan had sent him some corrections before the meeting, which have already been made. There were no other revisions noted. The minutes were approved.

3. President's Remarks (Alan Fox)

   There will be a Gen Ed panel discussion/caucus on April 27th with John Pelesko, Eric Rise, and Norm Wagner for Univ. and CAS Senators. There will be discussion around the proposals from the Gen Ed Committee to be submitted to be on the University Faculty Senate agenda for the May meeting. Pres. Fox will distribute these to all Senators and possibly all CAS faculty. The CNTT Commission report is out. This may mean that there will need to be revisions to all departmental P&T documents in the future. He stressed how important it is to participate in shared governance, which is under attack, so Senators may wish to participate also in another level and encourage others to get involved. He thanked the ad hoc Bylaws Committee for their work in revising the CAS Senate Bylaws.

   Sec. Galileo discussed how CAS was scheduled to lose a University Senator for next year. Deans submit the numbers of faculty to the Senate office, and they calculate the apportionment of Senators. The CAS Dean’s office had submitted 562 as the number of voting faculty, whereas our last reported number 2 years ago was about 600. This was brought to the attention of the Dean’s office, they recalculated, and came up with a new
number of 582, which still seems low. The discrepancy will be worked on, but hopefully this will be enough of an increase not to lose a Senator for the next 2 years. Sec. Galileo stressed that there should be a systematic way of verifying the faculty numbers given to the Senate office by the deans, and not just relying blindly on their reported numbers. Sen. Morgan added that the only reason this was discovered was because he had a list of all CAS faculty in the CBU, which had reported 561 faculty in the CBU.

4. Dean's Comments (George Watson): review of Academic Priorities

Pres. Fox stated that the dean was out of town.

5. Committee Reports

A. COCAN: John Morgan, Chair

1. Elections for at-large CAS Senate seats

COCAN is in good shape, P&T is in good shape. Need 1 person for the Ed Affairs Committee. Multiple nominees for the Advisement and Retention Committee. We are in good shape for the 3 At-Large CAS Senate seats, with 6 candidates: A. Barrier, J. Heinz, L. Hoffman, J. Justice, B. McKenna, T. Seraphin. There are 2 candidates willing to serve on the University COCAN committee: T. Seraphin and C. Guerrón-Montero. Elections will be done ASAP by Survey Monkey with a week to vote.

2. Nominations for the next President-Elect and COCAN chair

We do not yet have a nominee for President-Elect next year. Ideally, we want two. Sen. Morgan is willing to chair COCAN next year if nobody else steps forward. Pres. Fox again stressed how important it is to have 2 candidates run for President-Elect.

B. By-Laws Revision Committee: Phil Mink, Chair (Click Here)

Pres.-Elect Mink described the major revisions and how the committee addressed those comments. One concern was those faculty who are eligible to serve on the CAS Senate, and the committee agreed to lower the threshold from 50% appointment to 25% appointment. There was a positive vote to preclude Senators from representing multiple departments. There was a revision to allow Senate committees 45 days to respond to business given to them, and if they cannot meet that deadline, they must notify the originator of the business a reason for the delay. There was no objection. There was a concern that the original wording in the CAS Senate Bylaws in the beginning was removed, and thus made the CAS Senate’s charge weaker. For example, a list of 7 specific charges was removed. It is now much less prescriptive. P-E Mink assured that there were no powers being removed from the CAS Senate in the revised bylaws. There was much discussion over this issue by multiple Senators. P. Mink suggested that the Senate may want to revert to the original language of the beginning of the bylaws. Sen. Rise made a motion that we restore the original language at the beginning of the bylaws,
including the 7 specified charges. Sections I of the original bylaws will be completely restored. This was seconded. Passed with 3 opposed.

There was a concern that the AA program needed to be included on the Ed Affairs committee. Language was revised to make it clear that the AA program faculty would not be excluded from the committee and could be chosen as a member. The word “also” was added to clarify that the dean’s representative was in addition to the 7 faculty members.

Sen. Greene proposed a change to allow individual departments to choose their Senators as they see fit, as defined by its bylaws. Motion made and seconded. Passed unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to vote on the bylaws as amended on the floor. Passed unanimously.

*We do plan to vote on these proposals, unless there is a motion to postpone the vote.*

6. Old Business

A. Standing College Senate Budget Committee Proposal ([Click Here](#))

Sen. Morrison, the proposer of this resolution, was absent due to a broken ankle. Sen. Morgan spoke in favor of the resolution and gave multiple reasons why it should be formed. Sen. Brophy echoed these and stressed transparency. Sen Bernhardt spoke against the resolution now as before because he thought the dean’s office has been working as well as and as hard as they can on the budget and noted that budget discussions occur in chairs and directors meetings with the dean. He also stated that their associate dean visited their department and was forthcoming as to what his department could expect. He stated that he did not know if we wanted to saddle a committee of faculty with what will amount to attempted administrative oversight. He thought we should leave the budget to the administration. Sec. Galileo proposed an amendment to the resolution to include at the end of the resolved clause “and interfacing with the University Faculty Senate Budget Committee to provide information and advice concerning relevant issues, discussions, and actions of the College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Senate.” This was to help the CAS member of the University Senate Budget Committee represent the will of the college. Motion was seconded. Amendment passed with 1 opposed. Sen, Rise questioned why the chair of this committee would be elected and not appointed, as in other committees. Sen. Morgan stated an elected chair would have more responsibility to those who elected them.

Pres. Fox stated that this first year of the University Senate Budget Committee has been very challenging and they are still trying to figure out how they will operate effectively. Sen. Morgan stated that this committee should be set up now, and if it is ineffective, it could be disestablished in 2 years.
The vote to establish a CAS Senate Budget Committee was 19 yes and 10 no (65.5%), which failed to meet the 2/3 threshold required to establish this committee as an amendment to the CAS Bylaws. It failed by one vote.

*We do plan to vote on this proposal, unless there is a motion to postpone the vote.*

7. Introduction of New Business

Sen. Morgan brought up the question of why does the university wish to sell the land on west campus where the Rodney and Dickinson dorms are located? He recommended being aware of the issue and asking questions.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Minutes prepared by D. Galileo, CAS Senate Secretary