

FACULTY SENATE Minutes
September 14, 2022

Present: Henri Akono, Susan Bennett-Armistead, Catahrine Biddle, Emmanuel Boss, Tim Bowden, Ian Bricknell, Alice Bruce, Sabrina DeTurk, Paula Drewniany, Phil Dunn, Nuri Emanetoglu, Allison Gardner, Michael Grillo, Nancy Hall, Matt Hawkyard, Liliana Herakova, Cynthia Isenhour, Stephen Jurich, Jesse Kaye-Schiess, Andre Khalil, Anil Raj Kizha, Amanda Klemmber, Eric Landis, Sara Lello, Danielle Levesque, Margo Lukens, Ivan Manev, Dmitri Markovitch, Eric Martin, Shannon McCoy, Derek Michaud, William Nichols, Elizabeth Payne, Brain Pitman, Deborah Rogers, Amber Roth, Micahel Scott, MJ Sedlock, Kathryn Slott, Rosemary Smith, Sean Smith, David Townsend, Peter Van Walsum, Tim Waring, Manuel Woersdoerfer, Todd Zoroya, Anosha Raziq (Undergrad Rep), Jen Bonnet (PEAC)

Absent: Elizabeth Armstrong, Carla Billitteri, Debbie Bouchard, Stephanie Burnett, Kristina Cammen, Ana Chatenever, Mauricio Da Cunha, Mark Haggerty, Steven Kimball, Sarah Lindahl, Renae Moran, Harlan Onsrud, Bob Rice, Matthew Wallhead,

I. Welcome and Announcements

Update on committee requests from previous meeting, Nuri Emanetoglu and Todd Zoroya are joining the Faculty Information Technology Committee as Co-Chairs, Sabrina DeTurk and Elizabeth Payne are taking over as Chairs of the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee, Sara Lello has volunteered for the Navigate Committee, MJ says she has four different committees that have requests from, executive dean of main business school search, search, and the Vice President enrollment management, review of Dean Haddad, and the 2023 promotion and tenure committee, request from the Provost office for 37 faculty members to offer to be selected for these committees

Based on the last meeting, MJ confirmed that Chancellor Malloy will join the Elected Senate Meeting on September 28th for a q&a conversation, she said she will be sending out emails for request for specific questions for the conversation

MJ will also be sending out information soon about upcoming visits from four Candidates for the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and faculty development, each one will have an open forum session and that she encourages senate engagement

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the May 4 2022 Faculty Senate meeting were not available for approval at the time of meeting, will be approved in the October 12 full Faculty Senate meeting

III. New Business

Motion to Ratify the Charter of the Faculty Governance Council

Preamble

The current charter of the Faculty Governance Council (FGC), dated June 9, 2022, has been approved by FGC members. Following this, the charge must be returned to the faculty senates or assemblies of each campus for individual ratification.

The FGC is a mechanism of shared governance which is required for compliance with the requirements of unified accreditation and is composed of delegations from all UMS campuses.

The FGC's charter has been reviewed and discussed by all campus assemblies/senates during the 21-22 academic year and that feedback has been incorporated into the current revision.

Motion:

So that the Faculty Governance Council may address matters of system-wide faculty governance

and provide guidance on matters of new multi-university program proposals and initiatives that relate to the support of System-wide academic programming and unified accreditation, the University of Maine Faculty Senate moves to ratify the charter of the Faculty Governance Council dated June 9, 2022.

Rationale

The University of Maine System (UMS) Faculty Governance Council (FGC) was established by Chancellor Malloy in January 2020 as an assembly of the Faculty Senate/Assembly Presidents/Chairs. The Council was formed to address unique System-wide faculty governance issues and provide guidance on matters of new multi-university program proposals and initiatives that relate to the support of System-wide academic programming and unified accreditation. The Council will function in addition to already existing mechanisms for shared governance at the campus level and does not supplant them.

Composition of the Faculty Governance Council

- Membership of the Faculty Governance Council is composed of a delegation from each of the following campuses: UMA, UMF, UMFK, UMM, UM, UMPI, USM, and the UM School of Law.

Each campus delegation will consist of one to four members to include

- 1) The Chair/President of the campus faculty governance body, and the following optional members as determined by the individual campuses,
- 2) the Vice Chair/President of the campus faculty governance body; if a Vice Chair/President is unable or unwilling to serve, a campus may, if they so wish, substitute another representative by appointment of the campus faculty governance body,
- 3) an FGC Representative provided by election or by faculty governance body appointment and serving a term of three years,
- 4) a past Chair/President of the campus faculty governance body who a) previously served on the FGC, and b) continues to hold a faculty position at their respective campus; in the event that the past Chair/President is either unable or unwilling to serve, a campus may, if they so wish, to fill a one-year term by election from the faculty at-large.

The Council will also include the following non-voting ex-officio members:

- 1) An AFUM Executive Board member
- 2) A member of the UMS VCAA office

Charge of the Faculty Governance Council

The Council shall be a forum for System-wide shared faculty governance within the context of Unified Accreditation. It shall provide guidance on matters of new multi-university program proposals or initiatives that relate to the support or creation of System-wide academic programming. Faculty envision the FGC as a facilitative body, whose decision-making authority is, by design, limited. It shall serve principally as a conduit to share information with and from local faculty governance bodies, and as a faculty forum for direct communication with the UMS administration. No action taken by the FGC may be construed to supersede, override, or in any manner constrain the rights and responsibilities of the UMS University Faculty Governance bodies. Accordingly, the operations of the FGC are divided into three separate areas: general business internal to the FGC; oversight of multi-university programs; and consultation and feedback on UMS academic programming and policy.

1.1: Internal FGC business:

- a. As a duly constituted body, the FGC shall have free reign to elect its executive officers, schedule and conduct meetings, and all other matters related to internal FGC operations..
- b. The FGC may establish specialized subcommittees as warranted.
- c. Motions arising from the general internal business of the FGC shall be decided by vote, with each member having a single vote.

2: Program approvals and evaluations:

2.1 Multi-campus programs

- a. The Council understands that, per NECHE unified accreditation requirements, policies and standards concerning multi-university programming and initiatives will be brought to the Council far enough in advance of UMS or Board approval for the council to solicit feedback from their respective campuses on such proposals in due course of regularly scheduled faculty senate/assembly meetings. The Council is committed to ensuring the necessary structure exists for faculty involvement.
- b. The FGC shall review and constructively critique multi-campus proposals received from the VCAA's Office, in accordance with APL X-P.1. The process for new or modified multi-university academic programs normally initiates with the participating programs from the collaborating universities. The VCAA will notify the FGC of all multi-campus program intent-to-plan submissions. Individual university-level processes will be followed for individual university approval. The quality of curricular components of multi-university programs has been, and will continue to be, reviewed by the university-level curriculum committees and the faculty senate/assembly of the home universities of the collaborating departments. Participating universities will then work together to complete a single collaborative multi-university proposal submission.
- c. The FGC may, if warranted, offer suggestions regarding issues needing to be addressed in the program proposal submission. To ensure institutional-level consistency in the review of the curricular suitability of new multi-university programs, the Faculty Governance Council will provide a final overall review of the collaborative program proposals. The Council will offer feedback on final program proposals received between Sept 1 and April 1 to the participating campuses within 30 days, and, if necessary, continue to work with proposal sponsors to clarify any questions.
- d. Upon completion of the proposal review, the Council will forward a recommendation of action to the VCAA. In the event that the recommendation is not unanimous, the Council will forward a summary of its deliberations to the VCAA, including input received from individual campuses, per section 2.1 e.
- e. In order to create and preserve a single record of UMS faculty opinion on the proposals, the minutes of the Council shall record the recommendations of the respective faculty senates/assemblies, along with a rationale if provided. Representatives of an individual university may choose to refrain from offering a recommendation.
- f. The FGC shall discuss and provide recommendations to the VCAA Office on policy or other related issues relating to multi-university collaborations following the same procedure as outlined for multi-campus program proposal reviews.
- g. For review of on-going program quality, the Council, or a sub-committee, shall review submitted assessment reports from multi-university programs. The collection of assessment reports will be facilitated by the UMS and is not the responsibility of the Faculty Governance Council. The FGC recognizes the need for a multi-university assessment committee in the future, which will, when formed, assume the responsibility of reviewing the multi-university assessment reports.

2.2 Single-campus programs

- a. In accordance with APL X-P.1, the VCAA will notify the Faculty Governance Council of single-university program proposals. The notification is for informational purposes only; no action is required of the Council.

3.1 UMS Academic Programming & Policy

- a. As part of the UMS Administrative Practice Letters (APL) review process, the FGC shall receive timely communication from the VCAA regarding proposals to create or revise academic policies. Council members shall review materials, inform their respective university faculty senates/assemblies, and gather campus-level feedback for consideration.
- b. As a body and in consultation with their respective faculties, the FGC shall contribute constructive critiques of draft proposals for new and revised policies (APLs) brought by the VCAA. The System leadership will notify the Council in writing of all decisions subsequently reached regarding the proposed policy changes.
- c. The FGC may make recommendations on finalized APLs or other policy proposals

following the same procedure as outlined for multi-campus program proposal reviews.

d. Individual council members may bring issues regarding academic issues to the Council that have been raised on their respective campuses. The council will discuss and, in consultation with their respective campuses, may decide to bring issues of merit having multi-campus impact to the UMS administration for response.

4. Review of FGC Charge

Continued participation in the Faculty Governance Council shall be voted on by the Faculty Senates and their equivalent bodies across the University of Maine System on a two-year review cycle, with the first vote taking place during April of the second year. In the months leading up to this vote, each Faculty Senate and Assembly should review the Council's effectiveness to assess whether the Council has supported or undermined the fulfillment of their institutional mission. After the review, the Faculty Senates and Assemblies may individually consider extending or withdrawing support for the continuation of the Council. Additionally, they may choose to make recommendations regarding ways in which the Council could better meet its intended purpose.

Vote: Approved

IV. Announcements and Updates from Administration

President Ferrini-Mundy welcomed back members of the Senate after the summer break, sees Faculty Senate meetings as a great opportunity to discuss campus challenges through the year, states that enrollments are still down which will create budget issues but feels many happenings on campus are bringing in a wave of energy and excitement

President Ferrini-Mundy introduced Samantha Hegmann-Wary as the new Interim Athletics Director

The President also acknowledged that for many issues that members of the Faculty Senate are interested in discussing that are unable to be included in the full meetings there is a willingness to create deeper discussion in special topic meetings, subcommittee meetings, etc.

Provost Volin recognizes the smooth transition of communication between Faculty Senate former President Dee Nichols and new President MJ Sedlock and the continuance of monthly meetings to have tight collaboration between the Senate and the Administration

Provost Volin also discussed the 2022 graduating class as the 4th largest graduating class in UMaine's history and this year they saw the most applications they've ever had, but yield was poor and reduced by 6%, Chris Richards had decided to step down but is now staying in enrollment management

After 10% of first year students participated in research learning experiences, that number rose to 82%, UMaine Orono was supposed to pilot this program for 2 year but due to its success it will be used across all seven universities, 535 students are participating in research learning experiences

Word on funding for the Pathways center, a 1.5 million dollar center that will support pathways to careers across all seven universities

There are 74 new full time faculty members that have completed orientation, 38 faculty members were promoted to professor or associate professor, the special retirement incentive from the past April was used by 49 faculty members, Provost Volin explains that is about double what they normally lose year to year, states that the reduction in enrollment will affect the budget and is unsure about the amount of positions

they will move forward with this year, with Deans submitting new hiring strategies to reprioritize

There is a search underway for a new Athletic Director, as stated previously Samantha Hegmann-Wary is the interim AD, Provost Volin expects the search to go quickly and announced a new AD by December

There are two new Deans, the new Dean of Libraries, Daisy Domínguez joining us from the City University of New York (CUNY), the new Dean of the College of Engineering Giovanna Guidoboni from the University of Missouri

The UMaine Machias search for a Dean and Campus Director is coming to a close and is expected to offer to a candidate soon

Update from Dean Dana, over 1000 students attended a student organization event which saw students engaged and signing up for organizations and engaging, there was a lack of engagement with leadership organizations however like student government and honors society, the campus will work towards bringing more opportunities for leadership engagement to students

V. Accreditation & NECHE Self-Study Updates

Jeff St. John, Associate Vice Chancellor for Accreditation and Strategic Initiatives

Starting the last day of September and rolling into early October, there will be a 10 person team will be visiting for a “comprehensive evaluation”, these evaluations happen every 10 years for NECHE accredited entities and with UMaine being granted unified accreditation by NECHE in July 2020, UMaine is up for review, the focus of the review is the institution's fidelity for NECHE’s standards for accreditation

NECHE was asked of two things, both were agreed upon, first, it was asked that at least one member of the visiting NECHE team, physically set foot on each of the campuses, including the law school and to meet with faculty, cabinet, and president on the campuses, there will be individual visits for all UMaine Campuses including UMaine Orono, second thing asked was for more open forum opportunities other than the traditional singular 45 minute forum for singular institutions, there will be three forums for faculty, in addition to the individual Senate Assembly meetings, the first forum will occur October 3 from 3:00PM to 3:45 PM in Wells Conference Center Room 1 with a zoom link available, In addition to the three faculty forums, there'll be a meeting for the faculty governance council, individual faculty have been invited to a number of different meetings, topical meetings, including meetings on graduate programs, meetings on GPI, undergraduate teaching, research, Jeff strongly urges all faculty that can't attend the forums to give questions and concerns to faculty members that will be attending so that no questions go unheard, the evaluation team will meet with over 70 groups of faculty, students and staff, university leaders, system leaders, DOB chairs and vice chairs and Board of Trustees members during the time they're here, in addition to the three open forums for faculty, there's an open forum for staff, and there are separate forums for undergraduate students and graduate students, at the end of the visit, Wednesday, October 5, the eval team chair will share a verbal excerpt report, that meeting will be held at 11am at Minsky Recital Hall, the chair will share a short oral summary of key findings from the team while they were here, that summary typically forms the spine of a subsequent report that gets written and submitted to NECHE, the post visit timeline culminates next spring where Chancellor Malloy and the chair of the evaluation team will meet with the full NECHE commission at their headquarters in Massachusetts, discuss the self study, discuss the team's report, discuss the system's response to the report, have a lengthy conversation and then in May or June of 2023, the university will receive a letter from NECHE, saying thank you for your thoughtful self study and visit, here are some things that are going well and here are some things to work on which will be used as a guide moving forward

Q: How thorough is NECHE at looking at each individual campus system and how much detail are they able to get into?

A: They are responsible for determining whether in aggregate, our resources are applied across the system in a way that standards for accreditation, or academic programming rigor and quality, institutional resources, planning, evaluation, student Assessment, integrity, transparency, public disclosure, all those things at that level, and then also, there'll be looking at all of the universities to see how they are faring and operating under unified accreditation, this self study is a third larger than the self study 3 years ago as it includes information on seven universities not just one

Q: Has there been any discussion of how the system as the recommendations come down from NECHE, how they may affect the apportionment funding within the system to the individual campuses? Has there discussion of possible impacts across the system at the university?

A: We will be responsible for implementing unified aggregations and all facets, a response further implemented and responsible to get back from NECHE, as you know NECHE's recommendations they say you should improve in this area and we'll be concretely working to do that. And I will not be surprised if considerations about budget follow.

Q: Has our pioneering approach to unified accreditation, has it led to anyone else that we know of pursuing such a model, another system or if we know any other systems that we could sort of look at their experience to benchmark and learn from.

A: Within the region and outside of the region, the system leadership has had conversations with several officials from several other higher education organizations and several other states. That will be a great question to ask the Chancellor when he visits at the end of the month, because he's been involved in these conversations.

VI. Considerations of Possible Changes to Maine Day

Robert Dana, Vice Pres. for Student Life and Inclusive Excellence & Dean of Students

Dean Dana says Maine day was a day off with intention to provide service to community and Orono, but the past 6 years there has been trouble to get the pro-volunteer, pro-social aspects to be the main driver, there have been many parties in the area with a huge containment effort the past few Maine days, the parties have shifted to the avenue, a large off campus resident facility, past year there was 3200 people at a party that gets started at 11 in the morning, then deteriorated by 3 and police had to move in at 8 pm to move people out, lots of film that is vile and vulgar, and detrimental to UMaine image, over 100 emergency personnel positioned near the ave, 40 plus ambulance calls, 20 plus went to hospital, people climbing poles, trees, crawling into the woods in back, huge consequences for campus, Dean Dana says there is an unhinged aspect to it, difficult to explain in this discussion over why this deterioration has happened but it has happened every year, it is true of other universities that they have no very social positive spring events but it has turned into a day that created excitement over what's gonna happen, lots of concern

Dean Dana had a group commissioned to look at the state of Maine day, the group is concluding and most everybody has stark concerns. student leaders not disputing anything, nothing to dispute regardless, talked to president and many on campus and got interest of student government, would be decision of faculty senate due to it being on academic calendar

MJ wants the discussion of Maine Day to be a simple yes or no vote to remove it, as saying Yes but changing it is a different thing that needs to be distinguished from canceling Maine Day altogether, MJ also mentions how the Ave themselves charge a flat clean up fee to student residents of the Ave post-Maine Day instead of collaborating or taking proactive steps towards ending the partying and destruction

There is concern that the senate will be seen as the one's taking away Maine Day by the student body and other faculty as opposed to the reality of the senate simply making a recommendation to administration about removing Maine Day, instead of a recommendation to remove it, an endorsement of an already made decision would be better for the Senate

There's agreement that Maine Day has spiraled a little out of control and become dangerous and destructive towards property and the student's themselves and the best way to stop it is to just "kill Maine Day" and remove the day off, many ok with taking the blame of ending Maine Day due to its extremely dangerous nature as it currently stands, Dee says that if the administration came forward with a position the Senate could endorse instead of a motion by the senate, that would be better

Brian Pitman asked about other harm reduction techniques that might be utilized to mitigate the negative effects of the party, Dean Dana says that they've spent a lot of time over the last six years trying to do that, and have had little effect

It's suggested that perhaps another avenue to pursue is perhaps there could be service opportunities throughout the year that help embody the spirit of Maine day without providing this one single opportunity for students to use it poorly

Concern over lack of information before voting on the matter, sharing of information and time before any kind of vote is necessary, no matter what the implications of what's happening on the day in the past six years, the fact that there's a 90 year tradition of Maine Day, to just cancel on a whim would be hasty, also look at other universities in similar situations and how they responded

Administration makes it clear that Maine Day will be canceled regardless of Faculty Senate discussion for the upcoming spring, but that the administration would like if the Faculty Senate did endorse the decision, assumption that the decision to cancel Maine Day and subsequent academic calendar change will occur before October 1 2022, discussion over whether something to endorse like a written rationale would be available by the September 28th meeting so the Faculty Senate can decide whether to endorse it

For this year, Maine Day will simply be canceled and immediately start coming up with ways the the service element to be infused throughout the entire semester and academic year, important that the decision to cancel is definitive and that there can't be a "day of service" and still require students to go to class with discussion of how to continue the tradition of service in the future or perhaps another form of celebrating the tradition of Maine Day

Concern over removing Maine Day and just adding another day off somewhere else on the calendar as it affects teaching and teaching plans for the semester due to MWF classes receiving one less teaching week compared to TTr classes

VII. Updates on Budget and Enrollment

Matter moved to next full Faculty Senate meeting, October 12 2022

VIII. Questions of the Administration

All Faculty Senators are invited to address a question to any member of the Administration during this time. Respectful questions on any topic of campus business are welcome.

Q: With the fluctuations in enrollment, as a flagship division 1 institution, should the UMaine budget be affected by these fluctuations? Look to the state of Texas as an example for raising enrollment, they automatically enroll the top 5% of graduating high school students into the state universities.

A: 53% of our budget is tuition based, and in the last 7-10 years, we have not raised tuition while other costs have gone up, UMaine gets good state support, about 25 cents on the dollar, but other flagships are in similar situations, but you really feel that fluctuation in enrollment when tuition stays the same over a 7-10 year period

IX. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:34 PM