

**Black Hills State University**  
**Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**Minutes for March 20, 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:** Student Senate Secretary Cassidy Vandenhoeck, Liza Stahl, Zied Benaich, Donovan Fessler

Meeting called to order at 3:15 PM.

1. The March 6 Faculty Senate Meeting was cancelled. Curriculum Proposals were reviewed and voted on via email on March 7, 2024. Nag made a motion to approve all the curriculum proposals listed below. Laura seconded. The motion passed unanimously with one member not voting.
  - a. ART 343
  - b. BFA Photography
  - c. BS/BA History
  - d. BSED History
  - e. BSED Mathematics
  - f. BSED SS Composite
  - g. Composite Eng. major
  - h. French Language Certificate
  - i. German Language Certificate
  - j. Geography minor
  - k. History minor
  - l. History Teaching minor
  - m. Legal Studies minor
  - n. Multimedia Journalism
  - o. Philosophy minor
  - p. POLS minor
  - q. POLS Teaching minor
2. Approval of Minutes from February 7 and February 21 meetings
  - a. Nancy made a motion to approve the minutes from both meetings. Abby seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Senate reorganization models and bylaws
  - a. Jarrett provided a proposed new model for the election of senators to align with the expected reorganization of academic units.
    - i. One senator will be elected from each school:
      1. School of Arts

2. School of Humanities
  3. School of Social Sciences
  4. School of Natural Sciences
  5. School of Behavioral Sciences
  6. School of Business
  7. School of Education
- ii. Three additional senators will be elected for a total of ten senators. The senate discussed which of the following models to adopt for the election of the remaining three senators:
- Either
1. Three members from the university at large. Each university-at-large seat must represent a different school.
- Or
2. One at large from each of the following:
    - a. College of Liberal Arts
    - b. College of Natural and Behavioral Sciences
    - c. School of Education or School of Business
- iii. Nancy made a motion to adopt the second option, with language added that in the event that one of the college-at-large seats cannot be filled, it will become a university-at-large seat for the duration of the three-year term. Abby seconded the motion. The motion passed with 8 for, 0 against, 1 member absent at the time of the vote.
- iv. An additional change to the constitution was discussed to remove the requirement for voting on amendments to be conducted by a written ballot. Laura made a motion to include this change in the constitution. Ron seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- v. Jarrett will speak about the proposed changes to the Faculty Senate Constitution at the Town Hall meeting next week.
- vi. If the SD BOR approves the proposed academic reorganization model at the April 3 meeting, then the amended constitution passed by faculty senate will be brought to the faculty for a vote via written ballot. Two-thirds approval of the voting faculty will be required for ratification.

#### 4. Salary Concerns

- a. Concerns were raised over salary for non-tenure-track faculty being non-competitive.
- b. Senators mentioned that salary for tenure-track faculty are also low, and benefits are becoming more expensive.
- c. Jarrett will bring this issue to the attention of the Provost and President.

#### 5. Dorm housing policy during breaks

- a. Concerns were raised about students being charged to stay in the dorms during breaks (such as Thanksgiving and Spring Break).

- b. An example was provided of a student who had class until 4 PM on Friday and a long drive home being charged to stay in his dorm on Friday night.
  - c. Concerns were raised about students being put in uncomfortable or unsafe conditions to avoid paying for an extra night.
  - d. Students should be aware of the exception policy and process to ask to have the fee waived, as some students are granted exceptions.
  - e. Faculty senate encouraged members of Student Senate to take up this issue.
6. Academic Calendar
- a. Concerns were raised over the disruption to course plans when the Easter Monday holiday is granted part way through the semester. It was suggested that it would be easier to plan if the holiday was included in the academic calendar prior to the start of the semester.
7. Dean & Director Evaluation
- a. SDSU is considering changing their Dean & Director evaluation policy from a 5-year review cycle to a 3-year review cycle.
  - b. Jarrett obtained the BHSU Dean & Director review policy from HR and shared it with senators.
  - c. Questions were raised over whether this policy is being followed and whether reviews are taking place regularly.
  - d. Jarrett will request a review rotation schedule be made available.
8. Academic technology update
- a. Abby shared an update from the Academic Technology Committee.
    - i. The helpdesk is currently understaffed, and patience is requested from faculty.
    - ii. Ten laptops are available for students in need. Requests should be made to Fred Nelson by faculty on behalf of students.
    - iii. The BOR is working on an academic technology accessibility policy that will impact all materials shared through D2L.
    - iv. Work is underway to improve campus Wi-Fi.
9. Final exam policy
- a. Senate discussed reviewing the list of classes that are exempt from holding final exams.
  - b. It was suggested that it might be easier to list types of classes (labs, studio, etc.) rather than listing each exempt course.
  - c. It was suggested that faculty ask members of their schools to suggest courses to add to the list.
  - d. Nag volunteered to ask the registrar's office for a list of course classifications.
  - e. Abby and Jarrett will try to find a list of course types from the BOR website.
  - f. The discussion was tabled until further information is gathered.

10. Black Hills Research Symposium

- a. Nag reminded senators that the Black Hills Research Symposium is next week, with the poster session on Wednesday, March 27 and the keynote address on Thursday, March 28.

11. Recycling

- a. Concerns over recycling on campus were raised.
- b. A request was made to know what materials are being recycled.

Nag made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Laura. The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM.

Minutes recorded by Katrina Jensen

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

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Minutes unanimously approved on April 3, 2024