

**Black Hills State University**  
**Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**Minutes for March 17, 2021**  
**Meeting via Zoom**

**Attendance:** Cheryl Anagnopoulos, Skott Chandler, David Crawford, Susan Dana, Brian Eberhard, Jim Hess, Katrina Jensen, Parthasarathi Nag, Nancy Roberts, and Louise Yoho.

**Guests:** President Nichols and Provost Romkema

**Student Senator:** President Juliana Nielson

Meeting called to order at 3:15 PM via zoom.

1. Minutes of the March 3, 2021, meeting were approved. The motion to do so was proposed and seconded by Cheryl Anagnopoulos and Parthasarathi Nag. The motion passed unanimously.
2. President Nichols provided the following updates:
  - a. President Nichols agreed that Faculty Senate officers should be granted privileges to have direct email access to the faculty members. The authorization will be effective by next semester.
  - b. There will be a meeting with President and the members of the Task Force on faculty overloads and use of adjuncts on Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup> for a discussion. The Task Force has produced two guidelines and a policy to be reviewed.
  - c. The South Dakota legislature recently approved a 2.4% salary policy pool. Because the legislature also approved major modifications to the health care benefits, there potentially could be additional funds for salary increases. The funds will be divided with 30% allocated to adjust for national market benchmarks, 60% allocated for merit, and 10% allocated to institutional priorities.
  - d. BHSU has created a new policy and nomination process for awarding honorary degrees. We have submitted a request for approval to the BOR to award two honorary degrees. The BOR will make their decision during the upcoming March meeting.
  - e. President Nichols requested that the senate provide feedback on which tool to use for the Chair's evaluations. There are two options including a tool that was developed by a committee at BHSU and an IDEA Chair's evaluation tool. The senate will discuss and forward a recommendation to the President.
  - f. The South Dakota Legislature recently voted to approve SB 117 which creates a \$50 million fund designated for awarding needs-based scholarships. This will be effective for fall 2022.
  - g. BHSU has received additional funds under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (a.k.a. CARES Act). These funds, in part, will be provided directly to students. In the past, 1,500 students have received financial assistance. Federal guidelines are used in the determination of student recipients.

- h. The funds received under the CARES Act has also enabled BHSU to hire a second counselor for students.
  - i. President Nichols indicated that for fall semester classroom capacity should return to normal and masks will be optional.
  - j. BHSU recently submitted an application to Walgreens to provide a COVID vaccination clinic on campus. Vaccinations will be provided free of charge.
3. Provost Romkema gave the following updates:
- a. For May commencement there will be three ceremonies, using social distancing and requiring masks. Although the format will be the same as was used for December graduation, there will be additional recognitions made during the event. Such recognitions will include distinguished faculty member, honorary degrees, and faculty retirees.
  - b. Planning is underway for summer academic camps and other public offerings. Such events will be camp invention, seminars, and leadership events. Faculty are encouraged to get involved.
  - c. Provost Romkema reminded faculty that there will be no classes on Monday, April 5th at the direction of the Governor of South Dakota. Offices will be closed this day as well.
  - d. There will be a Research Symposium on March 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. via zoom. Two health care professionals will be discussing COVID-19 issues. They will be taking questions as well.
  - e. Provost Romkema will be creating a document to track all curriculum items that have been sent to the BOR. She will share this document with the senate.
  - f. A master tracking document will be created containing important dates for faculty and administration. Emails will be generated and sent to provide notifications of upcoming dates.
  - g. The Academic Affairs Huddle will be held tomorrow, March 18<sup>th</sup> and will focus on research.
4. Updates from Student Senate President, Juliana Nielson:
- a. The Student Senate election will be held on March 24-25. In addition, elections for senators will be in April with Inauguration planned for April 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. The launch for the new BHSU logo is scheduled for March 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in the Student Union. The student senators will be assisting with the event.
5. Recently, the Rapid City BHSU campus was notified that classes would be held via zoom due to inclement weather. Several senators voiced concerns regarding such a decision. Not all courses are equally accessible digitally such as music classes or science labs. It was suggested that the decision to hold classes via zoom should be at the discretion of the faculty member. Jim Hess and Nancy Roberts will discuss this issue at their next meeting with President Nichols.
6. The senate next discussed the chair's evaluation tool. There are two options that have been presented. First, the evaluation tool that was created by a committee that the senate

has reviewed. The other option is an IDEA chair's evaluation. Jim Hess will request a copy of the IDEA evaluation and send that out to the senate. A recommendation can be made after the senate reviews both tools.

7. The next Senate meeting will be held via zoom on Wednesday, April 7th at 3:15 p.m.
8. The meeting concluded 4:20 p.m.

Minutes recorded by  
Susan Dana, Secretary