

**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**

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| **Date:** | **October 4, 2024** |
| **Time:** | **1:00pm – 2:00pm** |
| **Location:** | **Zoom** Meeting ID: 881 8053 3722  71 in Attendance |

1. **10-4-2024 Agenda Adoption** 
   1. Agenda was unanimously approved
2. **9-6-2024 Minutes Adoption**
   1. Minutes were unanimously approved
3. **Information Items**
   1. **VPAA Update** – Dr. Judith Bilsky
      1. Shared updates on enrollment, which is expected to be strong for the fall semester and for the spring term as well.
      2. Mentioned the addition of a 12-week term to the college for the next fall term.
      3. Introduced Dr. Doeble to discuss the recent driving and commuting for college business training.
   2. **Driving & Commuting for College Business Training** – Dr. Gina Doeble
      1. Discussed the issues surrounding the recent driver's license training.
      2. Acknowledged that the communication and rollout of the process were not as planned, but assured that the necessary changes were made to the language and links.
      3. Vehicle Use and Insurance Discussion
         1. Dr. Doeble Discussed the distinction between personal and business vehicle use for insurance purposes.
            1. Commuting to and from home is personal, while travel between college locations is business use.
            2. Emphasized checking employee driver's licenses through a Canvas course for the college's protection in case of accidents.
            3. Driver's license information will be encrypted and only visible to authorized personnel.
      4. Dr. Bishop thanked Dr. Doeble and expressed gratitude to Lori Welch in Risk Management for her response to faculty feedback earlier in the semester.
   3. **General Senate Discussion** – All
      1. Discussion about the 12-week fall semester courses.
      2. Jaime Zlatkin shared her experience with a delayed course start leading to low attendance.
      3. Leonard Owens suggested 12-week courses might address demand for 16-week classes but raised concerns about unclear communication to students.
      4. Tim Bishop expressed surprise as this new format was news to him. Asked if other faculty were aware of these courses, when the decision was made, and asked for feedback.
      5. William Van Glabek mentioned the appropriateness of 12-week courses was discussed in their department.
   4. **COP Revisions Update** – Dr. Tim Bishop & Standing Committee Chairs
      1. Tim Bishop discussed the need for COP updates before HLC visits.
      2. Dr. McClinton gathered Standing Committee Chairs in August to suggest this process. Standing Committees have been working on the updates.
      3. Simple changes largely such as the many mentions of Provost versus VPAA.
      4. Updates due by the end of October.
      5. Tim Bishop encouraged the faculty to review the documents and send any updates or concerns to him or the standing committee chairs.
      6. Senate Executive Committee will review updates and forward them to Dr. Bilsky for approval.
      7. Any major issues should be looked at by committees in spring ’25 and beyond.
      8. Need for better communication about important updates.
      9. William Van Glabek raised a question about the rush to update the COP documents, to which Tim Bishop responded that it was due to the HLC accreditation.
      10. Standing Committee chairs to continue reviewing assigned COPs and provide updates to Faculty Senate.
   5. **Shared Governance Forum Recap** – Dr. Bishop & SGF Faculty Members
      1. Shared Governance Forum was held during Hurricane Helene on Thursday 9/26.
      2. Different agenda from previous meetings as it featured speakers discussing the seven pillars of FSW's academic program.
      3. Information from speakers, but no opportunity for discussion or debate on shared governance issues.
   6. **Hurricane Helene Faculty Response & Feedback** – Dr. Bishop & All
      1. Tim Bishop opened discussion by recapping the timeline and sharing his concerns about the poor communication regarding the transition to remote operations due to Hurricane Helene
         1. Met with a unified response from the faculty.
      2. Faculty members and staff were unclear about the meaning of "remote operations” prior to Hurricane Helene.
      3. Students experienced conflicting information, which added to the confusion.
      4. Tim Bishop mentioned that, as a result of the letter he sent to Dr. Allbritten on 9/30/24 he has a meeting with the President, Dr. Peel, and Dr. Bilsky to discuss the storm response on 10/9/24.
      5. Tim Bishop has a follow-up meeting with President Allbritten to discuss broader faculty concerns, including the direction of the college and the lack of a permanent VPAA.
         1. Tim Bishop asked for faculty feedback for items to cover at both of these meetings.
      6. Faculty members discussed the concept of shared governance and the lack of faculty input in decision-making processes throughout the college before, during, and after the hurricane.
      7. Faculty members expressed concerns about the handling of remote learning and emergency operations training, including the confusion and lack of communication during the training rollout.
      8. Faculty members discussed the administration's approach to faculty and students, with members emphasizing the feeling that they were treated as mere numbers for reporting purposes during remote operations.
      9. Tim Bishop shared his attempts to communicate with the administration about closing the school during Hurricane Helene, and that he received no response between Wednesday 9/25/24 at 5:45p.m. and Tuesday morning 10/01/24 at 10:00a.m.
      10. Faculty reflected on the administration's communication style, with several members expressing dissatisfaction with the current VPAA’s lack of communication.
      11. Faculty expressed concerns over policy implementation and potential action that could potentially endanger lives.
      12. A faculty member expressed their concern about the remote operations policy's implementation and suggested it rises to the occasion of considering a vote of no confidence
          1. Tim Bishop asked for patience and agreed to keep the faculty updated on the outcome of his 10/9 meeting. And with his follow up with Dr. Allbritten.
          2. Members of the faculty clarified that the ultimate responsibility for such decisions lies with the President, in consultation with the Vice Presidents.
          3. Faculty agreed to further discuss the matter and act if the response from upcoming meetings is not satisfactory.
      13. Faculty discussed the challenges of having remote leadership during emergencies, particularly in the context of the ongoing hurricane season.
          1. Faculty expressed concerns about the detachment between the VPAA's office and faculty, and the lack of clear policy connecting instruction during emergency situations.
          2. Members highlighted the issue of remote leadership, noting that key decision-makers, such as Dr. Bilsky, Dr. Peel, and Dr. Neuhard, do not live locally.
          3. The meeting also touched on the issue of people not being present both physically and figuratively creating the perception of a lack of long-term stake in the college.
      14. Concerns about the college's decision to stay open during a hurricane, questioning the potential financial and other implications.
      15. Hit to morale and goodwill.
      16. Discussed the texts sent to faculty, staff, and students, which led to confusion and questions among everyone, and the challenges faced by students due to the hurricane.
      17. Several faculty members mentioned the challenges of managing online classes during unexpected events. Many shared personal anecdotes.
      18. Vote of no confidence was brought up again by a long-time faculty member.
          1. Comments in faculty feedback provided to administration mentioned climate survey and vote of no confidence.
          2. Tim Bishop mentions that he was asked to put a vote on this month’s agenda as an action item and declined.
          3. Faculty mentioned that according to Senate Bylaws vote can happen even if it’s not on agenda.
          4. Tim Bishop asked for patience and for faculty to wait for results of October meetings before making any decisions.
      19. Meeting had run significantly over time and members had to leave for standing committee meetings. All updates tabled for next meeting. Tim Bishop asked that anyone with important updates to share them with him and he can email out for the full faculty between meetings.
4. **Action Items:**
   1. n/a
5. **Standing Committee Updates**
   1. None due to lack of time
6. **Faculty Updates**
   1. None due to lack of time
7. **New Business**
   1. None due to lack of time

Recorded by Faculty Senate Executive Committee via Zoom AI Companion

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