



## **CONGRESS**

**Monday, September 10, 2018**  
**University Hall Room 111**  
**3:00 pm**

Present: Kandace Hinton, Shawn Huisinga, Ryan Donlan, Chris Drew, Steve Gruenert, Eric Hampton, Carrie Ball, Janet Buckenmeyer, Linda Sperry

1. Call to Order at 3:03 p.m.
2. Approval of minutes for April 11, 2018 (Ball/Donlan, 7-0-0)
3. New Business
  - a) Student Representatives. K. Hinton recommended Kelsey Bogart as graduate student representative. S. Huisinga & C. Drew recommended Jenna Ford as undergraduate representative. K. Hinton will reach out to them and invite their participation.
  - b) BCOE Grievance Committee representatives: Carrie Ball (CDCSEP), Yong Joon Park (T & L), Steve Gruenert (EDLR).
  - c) PTOC Representative: Need one tenured faculty member from BCOE to serve. K. Hinton will find a volunteer.
  - d) Student Success Council Representative – Mark Frederick has served in the past. K. Hinton will ask if he is willing to serve again.
  - e) Emerita Status for Feng-Qi Lai (Ryan Donlan Requested). Recommendation was unanimously approved (Hampton/Huisinga, 7-0-0). There was discussion about the actual process for moving the request forward after approval. K. Hinton will work with Karen Meeks to forward the request, the meeting minutes, and a brief letter of support to J. Buckenmeyer for review. R. Donlan will learn more about where to forward the recommendation following review by Congress and the Dean.
  - f) Banner Carriers (Dec and May). L. Sperry indicated there will likely be one commencement ceremony in December and two in May. K. Hinton will e-mail chairs to request volunteers from the departments. There was ensuing discussion about the College of Graduate and Professional Studies' plans to introduce a hooding ceremony for doctoral graduates on the Friday evening before commencement. Concerns include ways in which this may limit participation in the two ceremonies and detract from the graduation experience for students, families, and faculty. K. Hinton will seek further clarification from D. Collins about the hooding ceremony and will draft a letter for review, expressing the concerns of Congress.
4. Old Business
  - a) BCOE RPT Document; C. Ball reported that the BCOE faculty review document was revised last year but will need to be revisited to ensure any biennial language is aligned with recent revisions at the University level (i.e., the elimination of the

“Contributing Exceptionally” category from the biennial review process). C. Ball additionally recommended reaching out to departments to advise them of the need to revise departmental documents by November to align with revised biennial review procedures, as requested by Faculty Senate. C. Ball additionally indicated that the Faculty Affairs Committee would be drafting guidelines for departments to use in developing policy for the distribution of merit pay.

- b) BCOE Policies and Constitution – C. Ball reported that a policy review was initiated by Congress in 2017-2018, led by Terry McDaniel with support from the student Congress representatives. This work is unfinished. R. Donlan suggested Congress set this work aside until the CAEP self-study is completed. C. Ball noted that the Constitution would benefit from revision to allow for electronic voting at the College level. C. Ball and J. Buckenmeyer also noted that Senate has requested colleges to include a provision in their Constitutions for identifying replacement Senators to fill vacant Senate seats.
- c) Dissertations – L. Sperry indicated that the current focus is on following existing policy. Congress may be able to evaluate the current system and develop recommendations for changes moving forward.
- d) Open College Meetings – C. Ball reported these were initiated in 2017-2018 and were sparsely attended. K. Hinton and J. Buckenmeyer encouraged continuation of open meetings. J. Buckenmeyer suggested selecting a topical theme for the meetings that would generate interest and participation from faculty. C. Ball additionally suggested working with departments to foster regular Congress updates and discussion at department faculty meetings.

5. Faculty Senate Representative Report – No additional report.

6. Dean’s Report – J. Buckenmeyer indicated priorities for the upcoming year include CAEP accreditation, evaluating workload, and supporting new faculty. C. Ball will be working as the Dean’s fellow to help make headway on each of these efforts. L. Sperry reported she is working on ways to provide better oversight process for dissertations and would like Congress to be involved with Dean’s office in strengthening the overall process and ensuring students have a high quality and supportive experience. She would like this to be a problem-solving year as we follow existing procedures and begin to identify strengths and weaknesses. Many potential issues were identified; there may be opportunities to explore options for improving quality, distributing workload, and reimagining the types of projects that could be completed for doctoral degrees.

7. Chair’s Report – K. Hinton reported she will be thinking about additional ways to encourage openness and engagement within the college.

8. Open Discussion – None.

9. Adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

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