

Minutes of Faculty Council Meeting

October 12, 2023

Rm 318 – Ivory Nelson Science Building

The meeting was called to order at 12: 32 pm by the president Dr. James Gallagher.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- 10/10/2023 - the minutes was reviewed and approved with the following two corrections:

- a) Action Item b. Students Mental Health Day – This was discussed at length, and in the end the consensus was to accept the proposal as amended which included that faculty give students the resource document that was discussed with recommendation by the committee.
- b) Announcement: SACE mentioned having a name change of “Graduate Program in Counselling and Human services” as they no longer offer a Master’s degree in counselling

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PRESENT:

Dr. Marilyn Button

Dr. Vilma Davis

Dr. James Gallagher

Dr. Pamela Kennebrew

Professor Christina Kerns

Dr. J. Pathak

Dr. Sam Williams

Dafan Zhang Esq

Maxine Cook - Faculty Affair

Dr. Brandi Berry - Parliamentarian

CHAIRS REPORT:

Dr. Gallagher shared information from the meeting with Dr. Allen. These meetings are held the first Friday of the month from 3pm – 4pm. Dr. Gallagher suggested that it would be a great idea to have at least one other council member attend these meetings. Presently the meetings are attended by the chair, vice chair and the secretary of the Faculty council. The decision was made that Drs. Pathak and Kennebrew would attend the meeting on October 3rd and Dr. Button and Professor Kerns would attend the meeting on December 1st.

University Finances: Dr. Gallagher reported that the university has not yet received the State allocations for the university which makes up 20 % of the budget (eight million dollars). This is also a 7% increase from allocated funds in previous years. This has apparently created a cash flow problem as the university has only a small amount of money to work with. Dr. Gallagher pointed out that the president is trying to avoid furloughs, hence spending is put on hold for now. Budgeted items that was already approved will be processed when the money becomes available. When asked how faculty can help, Dr. Allen did not think there was anything that faculty could do as this was not a Lincoln University issue- Penn State and Temple are the other two universities that are also waiting to receive their allocated money.

It was suggested by the faculty council that information be sent out by the president to faculty and staff if this situation with the State is not resolved by the end of the semester. The letter should be positive with the intent to allay fears among faculty and staff that LU has no money. In the meantime faculty and staff can contact the Pennsylvania legislature utilizing information previously suggested by Dr. Lesane at our last Faculty meeting.

3:2 Course Load: This is being looked at by the president which if adopted would decrease faculty's teaching load by 4 credits. A template, as mentioned by Dr. Allen, will be made available to department chairs to help each department with making the necessary changes in their curricula.

It was acknowledged that this would still greatly impact the Education Policy and Curriculum committees. The question arose about the possibility of considering a Hybrid option when changes to the curricula are made. Also suggested was having adjunct to teach independent study which would cover any shortfall created by the reduced teaching load for faculty.

DISCUSSION:

The introduction of media law to the university was discussed. This would be available to each department even if this was to happen remotely. This idea will require further discussion as to what this would look like.

Concern pertaining to how slates were conducted by the nominations committee. It was proposed that the nominations committee should first send the slate of nominees to faculty council before presenting at the Faculty meeting. It was concluded that there needs to be some procedural clarity with nominations committee which will decrease any confusion in people's mind.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 1:47 pm

Submitted by Vilma Davis