

GSW Faculty Senate Minutes
10/23/2020

1. The GSW faculty senate met on Friday, Oct. 23, 2020 at 10:00 AM via Blackboard Collaborate. Dr. Sam Peavy, president of the Senate, called the meeting to order. Minutes from the 9/25/2020 Faculty Senate meeting were approved by acclamation.
2. The first order of business was a proposed curriculum change for the BS degree in Exercise Science. Dr. Benjamin Meadors noted that the proposal to remove 4 PEDS courses from the curriculum sheet was to recognize that majors complete significance lab activities in their field. The Senate voted unanimously to approve the proposal.

The Senate discussed a late addition to the original agenda: the School of Nursing's proposed changes to graduate course schedules and options. Dr. Peavy noted that because these are internal changes to graduate education in the Nursing program, formal Senate approval is not necessary. Program changes should be sent to Academic Affairs as 'Submission for File.'

3. The Senate discussed general information about Fall graduation plans. Several ceremonies have been planned to allow for social distancing. The Senate requests more information about the ceremonies from Dr. Suzanne Smith, specifically regarding expectations of faculty representation.
4. Dr. Susan Bragg represented an issue from Arts & Sciences faculty regarding faculty-led campus events. Dr. Jason Berggren is moderating a candidate forum on October 28th that will include members of the community. Faculty are concerned about the lack of formal and consistent campus health supports for such events. Relying on faculty self-definition of health protections will create inconsistent policies and burden faculty in responsibilities beyond their area of expertise.

Dr. Suzanne Connor noted that a new campus task force has been created by administrators to plan for future campus transitions.

The Senate voted to send a friendly amendment to this task force regarding our concerns: The Faculty Senate requests the GSW task force on Covid-19 policies prioritize specific administrative guidance and supports to faculty members organizing campus events. These events are an important part of our role in the larger community and require more direct support from campus administrators.

5. Senators discussed student performance across the Fall '20 semester, with many noting issues such as inconsistent attendance and assignment completion. Other issues raised included the lack of systematic campus testing, the accuracy of student self-reporting of Covid-19 exposure, a lack of clarity in hybrid teaching expectations, and concerns about potential legal liabilities for faculty and campus administrators.

6. Faculty also discussed concerns about changes to GSW Summer session pay formulas. There has historically been issues of lack of clarity with summer pay but recent changes to expand administrative control over overload selections has reinforced these concerns.

Dr. Sam Peavy noted these issues need to be discussed directly with Dr. Weaver and other administrators. The Senate will prepare for future conversations.

6. Dr. Sam Peavy adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:20.

Attendance: Sam Peavy (President), Susan Bragg (recording secretary), Queen Brown, Joseph Comeau, Suzanne Conner, Gary Fisk, Chadwick Gugg, Kim Hasbach, Benjamin Meador, Michael Moir, Debbie Palmer, Charles Wells, and John Wilson. Dr. Lysa Chizmadia attended as observing participant.