

GSW Faculty Senate Minutes
11/20/2020

1. The GSW faculty senate met on Friday, Nov. 20, 2020 at 10:00 AM via Blackboard Collaborate. Dr. Sam Peavy, president of the Senate, called the meeting to order. Minutes from the 10/23/2020 Faculty Senate meeting were approved by acclamation.
2. The first order of business was a series of proposals from Academic Affairs. The Senate voted to approve a proposal to establish a “Jimmy Carter Leadership Program certificate.” Revisions to the IT and CSCI curriculum were approved. A proposed “Entrepreneurship” certificate was approved. Curriculum changes to expand elective options for the Criminal Justice e-major were approved. A proposed BA in Communication was approved, with clarification that a signature from the Dean of Arts and Sciences is still needed. Faculty discussed related concerns about availability of language courses, needed for BA degrees. A proposal for changes in GSW’s policy on Academic suspension was passed. Dr. Bryan Davis explained that changes emerged from the need for more student flexibility. Lastly, the Senate approved changes to GSW’s policy on undergraduate enrollment in graduate courses.
3. The Senate discussed a proposed template from the Faculty Affairs committee for required organization of faculty promotion and tenure portfolios. Dr. Gary Fisk noted that while standardizing portfolios in organization and page-length facilitated evaluating candidates across disciplinary differences, the template was too general and could be interpreted as repetitive. Dr. Benjamin Meador noted this concern as well, suggesting the need to better define required categories of the portfolio. Senators voted to table the motion and send the proposed template back to Faculty Affairs for revision.
4. Dr. Gary Fisk raised an issue of concern regarding faculty evaluation as part of the promotion and tenure process. Dr. Fisk noted that departmental evaluations rated faculty on a 1-5 scale while promotion and tenure committees rated faculty on a 1-3 scale. This creates inconsistencies in faculty evaluation. Dr. Fisk noted that expanded rating scales may be more effective at assessing faculty.
5. Dr. Sam Peavy introduced information about a GSW summer pay taskforce currently being created. Dr. Peavy suggested ideally, each college would be represented by at least two representatives. Dr. Michael Moir added that faculty in natural sciences and studio art need representation as their required teaching formats result in larger discrepancies between credit and content hours. Dr. Fisk noted that historically, faculty took on internships and other small load teaching on a voluntary basis. A more recent reform was the policy of paying faculty 125.00 per credit hour but there remains inconsistency in payment and teaching loads across academic units. Dr. Peavy reinforced the need to nominate individuals from across different units of campus to serve on the GSW summer pay task force to address these issues.
6. Dr. Gary Fisk reported on the progress of student e-mail migration. There have been some concerns about student responses to this change. The IT steering committee asks that faculty do more outreach with students on this issue.

7. Dr. Sam Peavy shared his proposed Faculty Senate schedule for Spring '21 with meetings on January 29, Feb. 26, March 26, and April 23. The general faculty meeting is proposed for May 7th.
8. Dr. Peavy also reminded the Senate that the full faculty meeting for Fall '20 is scheduled for Dec. 4th.
6. Dr. Sam Peavy adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:45 am.

Attendance: Sam Peavy (President), Susan Bragg (recording secretary), Carol Bishop, Queen Brown, Joseph Comeau, Gary Fisk, Chadwick Gugg, Kim Hasbach, Benjamin Meador, Michael Moir, Debbie Palmer, Becky Short, and John Wilson. Lysa Chizmadia, Evan Kutzler, and Bryan Davis attended as observing participants. Dr. Suzanne Smith attended as an ex-officio member.