

## College Senate Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2015

**In Attendance:** Paul Creech (chair), John McNamara, Winchester Brown, Marie Basche, John Christie, Stephen Fagbemi, Sabrina Adams, Arthur Hernandez, Art Kureczka, Bruce Miller, Jim Plourd, Latanya Sumlin, Carmen Yiamouyiannis

Meeting called to order at 2:35pm

- 1. Approval of Agenda with one added item - m/s/a**
- 2. Approval of Minutes from prior meeting - m/s/a**
- 3. Weather Closing Information Discussed and reviewed**
  - Suggestion to add closing info to Massachusetts stations
  - Closing and Alert Messages are now automated
  - Recurring sentiment that “building opens at ten” message can be confusing
- 4. Standing Committees**
  - Consent agenda will be continued in the future for items that will not need much discussion
- 5. Common Calendar**
  - Fall 2016 Schedule examined
  - Spring 2017 Schedule examined
- 6. Tap Pathways**
  - Humanities department has voted not to endorse the English pathway College Readiness Course
    - This first year course is required to be taken by all transfer students at Western (hotly debated topic)
    - Senate motion to accept CAP’s/Humanity Department’s non-endorsement to TAP English pathway m/s/a
  - Social Science Department – four pathways
    - Social and Behavioral Sciences have endorsed all four pathways
    - Senate motion to accept all four endorsements m/s/a
- 7. CTC Committee Report**
  - Professional day will be Technology Day
  - Some workshops will be held to demonstrate technology
    - Room 621 etc.

- There is a survey regarding classroom technology (co-project with FSSD)

#### **8. College Affairs**

- Working on Commencement Speaker selection
- Senate and Committees might now be involved in commencement speaker selection
  - Commencement Speaker is traditionally not paid
  - Sentiment to try to get a powerful Commencement Speaker

#### **9. Diversity and Inclusion Committee**

- Monday, December 7 – Conversation and Mental Health

#### **10. Planning and Review**

- Strategic Plan being reviewed
- Operational Plan being reviewed

#### **11. CCGA**

- CCGA Constitution and bylaws were reviewed
- CCGA does not report to the BOR and does not officially fall inside of the Governance Structure.
- Motion to support bylaws m/s/a
- Strong Support for the CCGA shown by the Senate

#### **12. Additional Items**

- Requests from students to find a cheaper alternative to buy textbooks (J. McNamara)
- Request for Senate to explore options to lower costs for textbooks for students.
- Open Educational Resources (OER) discussed
  - Information being forwarded to FSSD for further consideration
- Information regarding next GALA to be coming soon.
- Member of Senate has historically attended executive meetings.
  - This idea supported by Dr. Wilfredo Nieves
- Discussion regarding Dr. Ojakian's upcoming visit to the campus regarding what questions and issues should be brought up during the visit.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Winchester Brown*, Senator

