Faculty Senate, Tuesday, September 10, 2019, 5:00 PM
Wells Fargo Auditorium (Beatty Center 115)

Highlights (Full Minutes to Follow)

1. Speaker Simon Lewis called the meeting to order at 5:00.

2. The April 2/9, 2019 Minutes were approved.

3. Senator Irina Gigova was elected Speaker Pro Tempore.

4. Reports

   a. Speaker Lewis introduced President Andrew Hsu. Speaker Lewis also emphasized the importance of the current strategic planning process and in doing so, reminded the Senate that the College has an obligation to the society we serve. We need to assess our performance in terms of the “triple bottom line” of economic impact, environmental impact, and cultural/social impact.

   b. President Andrew Hsu gave a report outlining “where we are” prior to strategic planning. He focused on the overall higher education landscape, our place in a fast-changing world, and the future of our college. We are going to continue to see a decrease in the college-age population nationally, leading to even greater competition for students. Meanwhile, students increasingly expect career preparation. Our future depends largely on the decisions made during this strategic planning process.

   President Hsu provided a wealth of data while discussing recent trends in acceptance rates, retention, SAT’s, graduation rates, tuition, and expenses. He concluded that the current trend of declining enrollment and increasing expenses is not sustainable.

   Citing Carnegie classifications of colleges and universities --- we are currently classified M1 (Master’s Colleges and Universities --- Larger Programs) --- he outlined three possible options: (1) Reduce the size of our faculty and student body and become a “Baccalaureate College --- Arts and Sciences Focus,” which he described as highly disruptive and unlikely to succeed; (2) Excel in our current classification; or (3) Seek R2 (Doctoral Universities --- High Research Activity) or D/PU (Doctoral/Professional Universities) classification.

   President Hsu emphasized that he was simply laying out options to get the process started, and that it is crucial that faculty and staff participate in the process of deciding on our shared direction.

   During q&a, several senators thanked President Hsu for his candor and asked for more information to inform our participation in the strategic planning process.
c. Kelly Shaver and Susan Anderson reported on the Federal Demonstration Partnership, to which the College belongs. The goal of the FDP is to reduce the administrative burden on research, which helps faculty and frees up valuable time in the Office of Research and Grants Administration. PDF

6. Constituents’ General Concerns: Senator Richard Nunan suggested that, in light of the regularity with which fall semesters have been disrupted by hurricane evacuations, we should have a conversation about the way we deal with the lost instructional time, possibly building weather make-up days into the schedule.

7. The meeting adjourned at 6:43.