

## **Bloomsburg Local Assembly - MINUTES**

March 27, 2024

3:00 pm

**Location:** Hartline Science Center G40 or Zoom: <https://commonwealthu-edu.zoom.us/j/96879548610?pwd=ZWJTWmVMYXk3bENoRDdNMVQyWlILQT09>

Attendance: Mark Decker, Ingrid Everett, Terina Oman, Suzy Williamson, Dan Knorr, Brooke Harlowe, Eric Hawrelak, Tena Maurer, Rebecca Willoughby, Sara Barchik, Karinne Force, Christopher Hallen, Jessica Heid, Lauri Green, Hilary DeBardleben, Robert Green, Angela La Valley, Cori Myers, Bill Calhoun, Amanda Stutzman, Jim Brown, Maramonne Houseknecht, Heather Feldhaus, Heidi Warner, Stephen Whisner, Meredith Grimsley, Walter Zilz, Jason Genovese, Michael McFarland, Ashleigh Cake, Dr. Marty Wygmans, Nikki Keller, Qing Yue, Thomas Starmack, Stacy Wagner, Rajendra Dulal, Andrea Schwartz, Brad Swenson, Diana Rogers-Adkinson, Jerome Dvorak, Erik Evans, William Walker, Jerome Dvorak, Stephen Lee, Dina Clark, Stephen Filipiak, Debra Minzola, Nancy McBride, Tess Fosse, Hope Lineman, Dr. Amy Downes, Stephanie Bissinger, Bashar Hanna, Brooke Lylo, Eric Ness, Amy Osborne, Melissa Buck, Gretchen Sechrist, Erin Heidlauf, Debra Minzola, Julie Kontos, Courtney Paddick, Mykola Polyuha, Yucheng Chen, Michael McFarland, Lynda Michaels, George Agbango, Latha Ramakrishnan

**I. Call to order** - Mark Decker, (Vice President of CU Senate and Professor Department Chair), called the meeting to order at 3:01pm.

### **II. Announcements**

Go to the CU Senate website for the latest information and membership lists:  
<https://www.commonwealthu.edu/commonwealth-university-senate>

Senate Elections will be held on Monday, April 1 – Mark Decker explained that the information will be sent out via email and put on the website regarding elections.

**III. Approval of Minutes:** October 18<sup>th</sup> Local Assembly (Appendix A) – Minutes approved by acclamation of attendees.

### **IV. Committee Reports**

A. Academic Policy Committee – Brooke Harlowe, (Professor Political Science), reported has prioritized mission critical policies and are getting stuff done.

i. Enrollment Management Subcommittee – Maramonne Houseknecht, (Director of Admissions Bloomsburg), said that they have moved their Bylaws to executive committee for approval.

ii. IT Subcommittee – Jason Genovese, (Associate Professor Media&Journ Dept Chair), committee met on 3/26. They are working on survey to send out to all faculty,

staff, and students. Their ByLaws have passed, and all their policies will be ready to go to first reading in the fall.

B. Advancement Committee - Jason Genovese, took a moment to thank Erik Evans, (VP University Advancement), for the updates and hard work on the state of fundraising. The committee passed its bylaws, and they have three policies that will be ready for senate in the fall.

C. DEI Committee – Lauri Green, (Associate Professor, Biological and Allied Health Sciences), reported that the committee has a draft of their bylaws and are making good progress on policies.

D. Finance Committee – Dina Clark, (Associate Professor, Accounting), Committee has submitted bylaws are working on policies PRP-5361 and PRP 0101.

E. Student Success and Campus Life – Mark Decker on behalf of Holly Jackson, (Associate Professor), working on 3 policies to submit to senate in the fall.

i. First Year Experience Subcommittee – Rebecca Willoughby, (Executive Dir FYE-Assistant Professor), stated that the committee has drafted their bylaws and are working on the First Year Seminar Policy.

F. Elections Subcommittee – Angela La Valley, (Dept Chair – Professor), Met on 3/27/24 to vet all candidates. Elections will be held April 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, with runoffs planned for April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Everything expected to be wrapped up by April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

V. Student Government Report – Ashleigh Cake reported that the student government is preparing for “The Big Event” where over 900 students are expected to go out into the community and offer community service.

VI. Provost Report / Bloomsburg Athletics (Dr. Diana Rogers-Adkinson) – For athletics, Diana announced that Lee Anderson is the new Women’s Head Volleyball Coach at Bloomsburg. Bloomsburg has 2 NCAA qualifiers for swim, the Lacrosse team is 6-0 and ranked 19<sup>th</sup> in the nation. Bloomsburg athletics has raised money for their 4<sup>th</sup> Make A Wish donation. On the Provost report, Diana said that the CPP review will be coming out. These are programs that are under review. This will not have any impact on current students.

## VII. CU Senate Business - First Reading Notices/Feedback

A. Policy on Policy (Appendix B) – Suzanne Williamson, (Chief of Staff & VP for Administration), explained that this policy is designed to provide a way to draft uniform policies. There are templates on the CU Senate website under the resource tab and a recorded training for additional help when working through policies. Brooke

Harlowe added that even though the policies have been divided up among the committees, that doesn't mean that policies aren't reviewed by several committees.

- B. First Year Seminar Exemption Policy (Appendix C) – Rebecca Willoughby explained that this policy should address students who are transferring in to help them transition to college life. Students should be reviewed case by case. Diana Rogers-Adkinson added that we cannot make assumptions and all students should be treated fairly, whether they are online students or not. Julie Kontos, (Professor - Assistant Chair of Psychology), asked if transfer students received credit for a 1 credit course, does it count for our 3-credit course? Diana stated that decision can be made on case by case in looking at the transcripts.
- C. Academic Integrity Policy (Appendix D) Brooke Harlowe stated that the Integrity policy is mostly from legacy policy 3512 from Bloomsburg and that the bones of the policy have not changed. Much of the policy and procedure are the same. Updated the language to bring current. They worked on levels and changes within those levels for academic dishonesty. Suzanne Williamson offered to work with committee. Eric Hawrelak, (Professor of Bio-Chemistry), questioned the 30 timeframe to report an infraction. Brooke explained that timing was based off of detail and timing it can sometime take to do the research on an infraction.

#### **IX. Identifying Problems/Seeking Solutions/Updates**

- A. A. *Press Enterprise* (March 10, 2024) article on CU debt (President Hanna) - President Bashar Hanna (CU President), wanted to provide additional context to the article in 4 categories. 1. All state system schools under PASSHE have long term dept, this is not new. CU is looking to use all resources, wherever possible and reduce long term dept. 2. Scholarships are not being reduced. CU is seeing a rise in enrollment and scholarships will be appropriated. 3. There is no plan for reduction in faculty. Every position is assessed for need and demand. Provost has been given approval to hire additional faculty where needed. Retirements are not layoffs. 4. Regarding the Governor's budget address; The address called for a 15% increase but is contingent on new system being up and running. CU has requested a 6.25% increase to the board of governors to help freeze tuition for the 8<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Commonwealth University has been aware of the level 2 dept putting us under a "high risk" category term since integration.

B. MSCHE Update (Jess Heid) (Appendix E) – Jess Heidi, (Early Alert Technology System Manager), presented the MSCHE updates and asked that everyone review the working groups and provide feedback. Links are open until Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> 2024. Please reach out to Amy Way or Dr. Cori Myers for any questions.

C. APSCUF Update – Tentative Contract – Eric Hawrelak reported that the new contract is under negotiation. You must be a member to vote and voting has to be done in person. Coaches have also met a tentative agreement and will be voting April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

D. Reflections on Local Assemblies

#### **X. Remarks for the Good of the Order**

**XI.** Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 4:27pm

**Upcoming Spring 2024 Meetings**

- CU Senate Meeting @4 pm via Zoom: Thursday, 4/11/24