

Senate Ways and Means Committee Annual Report for 2019-2020

Calvin Berry, Chair (Sciences)
Zachary Stein (Library)
Brooke Breaux (Liberal Arts)
Ignatius Cahyanto (Business)
Hunter Beasley (Education)
Gwen Leigh (Nursing)

Summer 2019

Calvin Berry met with Robert McKinney and discussed his (Robert McKinney) proposal regarding Interdisciplinary Studies Policies. He agreed that it would be best for us to come up with a draft proposal regarding joint academic appointments which we could hash-out with his office leading to a new formal proposal to be presented to the Faculty Senate.

During the summer the committee worked on a proposal regarding joint academic appointments. A draft version of this proposal was posted on moodle and Faculty Senate input was solicited.

October 2019

Calvin Berry met with Robert McKinney and discussed our draft proposal regarding joint academic appointments. Using our draft proposal as a starting point, Dr. McKinney will now confer with relevant parties to get their input. Dr. McKinney will then prepare an updated proposal and submit it to the Faculty Senate for further discussion.

November 2019

The committee met (7 November 2019) and discussed James McDonald's motion regarding over-reliance on student evaluation of instruction results in performance evaluation of faculty teaching. We corrected a few typographical errors and modified the motion to clarify that it is imposing two constraints on the use of results from student evaluations in performance reviews. The motion was posted and presented to the Faculty Senate at the 20 November 2019 meeting.

We also discussed, among ourselves and with Nancy Autin, the possibility of a motion to form a task force to engage faculty and administrators in a dialogue about the collection of student feedback on instruction and the proper use of such feedback. As of April 2020, we have not taken further action on this idea.

January 2020

The committee met on 12 December 2019. Before our meeting we solicited rubrics and related information regarding teaching evaluation from all departments. We also asked the department heads to encourage their faculty to send comments regarding the motion restricting the use of student evaluations of instruction in teaching evaluations motion.

We modified the motion based on discussion at the November 2019 Faculty Senate meeting and the rubrics and comments we received.

This revised motion was posted and presented to the Faculty Senate at the 15 January 2020 meeting.

February 2020

The motion restricting the use of student evaluations of instruction in teaching evaluations was approved by the Faculty Senate with one minor change to the list of potential sources of input.

The motion was revised and submitted to Robert McKinney on 9 April 2020.

The committee prepared a draft revision of the senate constitution based on input from the president and several senate members. These revisions were presented to and discussed by the senate at the 19 February 2020 Faculty Senate meeting.

A vote on this collection of proposed amendments to the Faculty Senate Constitution was formally announced and scheduled for the 18 March 2020 Faculty Senate meeting. This meeting was canceled due to the COVID-19 emergency.