



FACULTY SENATE 2021-2022

ISU Faculty Senate

Official Minutes

Monday, October 25, 2021 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Location: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://isu.zoom.us/j/93311614308?pwd=OUFrbTBVWng5UUtMTDIQ2NuQlJOdz09>

Meeting ID: 933 1161 4308

Passcode: 114735

In Attendance: Dan Dale, Tyler Jepson, Julia Boyle, Dave Bagley, Christy Sabel, Cory Bennett, Curt Whitaker, Fredi Giesler, Michelle Anderson, Neelam Sharma, Ryan Pitcher, Suzanne Beasterfield, Colden Baxter, Bethany Schultz Hurst, Ellen Ryan, Chad Yates, Kent Whitaker, Mary Hofle, Julia Boyle, Jim Stoutenborough, Gesine Hearn, Darren Leavitt, Duane Rawlings, David Hachey

Absent But Excused: Anish Sebastian, Caryn Evelia, Jasun Carr

Absent:

Ex-Officio: President Kevin Satterlee, Karen Appleby, Dustin McNulty, Nitin Srivastava, Lethaniel Loley, Kellee Kirkpatrick, Jerry Leffler, Lyn Redington, Steve Clay

Recording Secretary: Ann Medinger

Open Forum:

Dustin McNulty-

ISU Physics Program-

Displacement of the Physics program. No longer has department status. Still has students completing a competitive number of degrees. Grad Student spaces have been taken from Physics program.

New External Chair hire

-Satterlee responded and stated that there are discussions surrounding this that need to be had.

-Appleby responded and said conversations are happening surrounding this and they are actively working towards a consensus as to how to address this.

**See letter at the end of the minutes

1) Announcements

- a) We want to thank you all for fighting the good fight last Faculty Senate Meeting. It was nice to accomplish all that we did accomplish.
- b) We want to encourage all senators to engage in respectful dialogue. We will never all agree, but there is a way to disagree, respectfully.
- c) Robert's Rules Cheat Sheet and Decorum Guide Available in Box.
- d) Senators, make sure to add any questions you have for the provost candidates to the document located here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1b99KtUwPglf6G4Ot4c6lfaLVNyETDyqEQ0dblpKTGxo/edit?usp=sharing>

2) ASISU Update- Zane Webb (ASISU VP)

- a) None



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3) Student Affairs Update- Lyn Redington

- a) Experience ISU will be a virtual opportunity
 - i) Will be this weekend, October 30, 2021
- b) Let colleagues know that the time of registration is changing
 - i) Opens at 7 am instead of midnight as in the past

4) Academic Affairs Update- Karen Appleby

- a) **NWCCU ACCReditation Visit**
 - i) Preliminary draft received
 - (1) Was overall, very positive
 - (a) Two Commendations
 - (b) Two recommendations
 - (i) Much better than the 7 recommendations received after our last accreditation
 - (2) Thank you to Faculty for all work and support
 - ii) SBOE
 - (1) Three Academic programs approved
 - (2) Academic Responsibility and Freedom
 - (a) Deferred to December meeting
 - (b) November 5th 1-2:30- discussion on how this impacts faculty
 - (i) Will be recorded for those who cannot make it

5) Policy News- Kellee Kirkpatrick/Libby Howe

- a) Last FPPC meeting
 - i) Discussion on ISUPP 4039
 - (1) Looking at big picture questions
 - (a) Faculty Dismissal or Suspension for Adequate Cause- new title of the policy

6) President's Update- Kevin Satterlee

- a) Rendezvous Center
 - i) Time for the university to name something on campus in honor of former President Bohan.
 - (1) Put together a small committee in regards to this
 - (a) Came back with a recommendation that Rendezvous is the right building to be named thusly.
 - (b) Proposed name is, "Richard L and Connie S Bohan Rendezvous Center"

7) Guests-

- a) Curt Whitaker- ACT/SAT discussion and decision made by Academic Standards Committee
 - i) Whitaker updated Faculty Senate on how ASC came to the decision to suspend the requirement of the ACT/SAT for admission for a trial period of the next three years. Topic will be revisited in 2025.
 - (1) Sister State institutions are suspending ACT/SAT requirements temporarily or permanently.
 - (2) The exam imposes a burden on students.
 - (a) ISU is basically an open enrollment institution.
 - (b) The burden may reduce the institution's ability to recruit students.
 - (3) There may be better diagnostics available for placement in programs such as Math and English.
 - (a) These are more effective
 - (4) Concern over whether the tests are socially unjust.
 - (a) Standardized tests correlate with socioeconomic status



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- (5) Problem with them causing cognitive bias amongst faculty in regards to students' performance in class assignments and tests.
- ii) Whitaker will be working with Stacy Phelan to collect numbers and statistics regarding the impact of this decision over the next three years
- iii) ASC would like to gather more input from faculty regarding this topic

8) Consent Agenda- Approved

- a) Faculty Senate Official Minutes October 11, 2021
- b) Research Council Minutes October 8, 2021
- c) FPPC Minutes October 13, 2021
- d) AAB Official Minutes September 9, 2021
- e) GERC Minutes August 31, 2021
- f) GERC Minutes September 14, 2021
- g) GERC Minutes September 28, 2021
- h) GERC Minutes October 12, 2021

9) Continuing Business

- a) Approve ASC Minutes September 17, 2021 now that we've heard from Curt Whitaker

ACTION- baxter moved to approve the ASC minutes from September 17

Jepson seconded

Motion carried unanimously

- b) New Office/Conference room for Faculty Senate
 - i) Appleby wants to find a space for Faculty Senate permanently before the Faculty Senate Space in Rendezvous is given to NASS
 - (1) A space audit will be performed on Pocatello campus and other campuses
 - ii) Lethaniel Loley -leader of NASS-spoke to Faculty Senate as to the needs of NASS and reasoning for wanting that space.
 - iii) Hofle suggested that we make a list of what the senators need for face-to-face/zoom for a room for faculty senate to get to Karen Appleby
 - (1) Executive Committee will look into this
- c) Faculty Senate Elections
 - i) KDHS GERC positions still not filled
 - ii) Replace Alex Rose- College of Business- starting ASAP
 - (1) Term to end May 2022- a 7-month term
 - (2) COB is already on this
 - iii) Replace Barbara Gordon- College of Health- on Research Council starting January 2022
 - (1) Term to end May 2022- a 5-month term
 - iv) Replace Bethany Schultz Hurst- College of Arts and Letters- starting January 2022

10) New Business

- a) Ratify new Senator Kent Whitaker in the PAC Program as replacement for Kathy Eroschenko

ACTIONS- Jepson motioned to approve Kent Whitaker as replacement for Kathy Eroschenko

Sabel seconded

Motion approved unanimously



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- b) Hold election to replace Alex Rose on Executive Committee
 - i) Dave Hachey- Pharmacy
 - ii) Ryan Pitcher- College of Technology to start in January 2022

ACTION- Jepson motioned to move to Executive committee
Baxter seconded
Motion Carried Unanimously

11) Executive Session

ACTION- Baxter motioned to go out of executive session
Motion seconded
Motion unanimous

ACTION- Vote for new Executive Committee Member
15- Dave Hachey
6 – Ryan Pitcher
3- Abstentions

12) Adjournment

ACTION- Anderson motioned to adjourn
Giesler seconded
Motion Carried unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 5:58 pm

13) Letter Read to Faculty Senate by Dustin McNulty during Open Forum:

“Dear President Satterlee,
I am a professor within the ISU COSE Physics Program. I came to ISU in August 2010 as an assistant professor and this past summer was promoted to professor. I’ve been here a fairly long time and care deeply about the university, students, and community. My record of commitment to the university mission stands on its own -- I’ve graduated 2 PhD’s and 3 MS’s, worked with dozens of undergrads, and currently have \$1.3M in external grant awards over the next 3 years. I am writing this letter to communicate a grave situation that is effectively killing the fundamental science core of our university. The latest act of dismantlement of the COSE Physics unit is set to be a complete and permanent displacement of the physics program office (chair’s office, admin assistant, files, records, dissertations, etc.) to a rumored-to-be, disparagingly small and inadequate hall corridor room. This is just the latest assault on what is now the only non-department entity in the university, COSE Physics. Since 2016, we have been systematically stripped of: department status, our chair position (no “real” leadership for over 5 years), and our only junior tenor-track faculty member (terminated in 2020 at the end of his 2nd year—with questionable justification). Good faculty members have left ISU Physics and they have not been replaced. There are now 5 faculty in ISU Physics (I am the newest hire of the bunch). This is less than half of our ranks from 2011, and yet our numbers of undergraduate and graduate degrees awarded are “hanging-on” competitively with comparable universities--most of which now have twice as many tenured/tenure-track physics faculty compared to ISU. Ten years ago, we had cumulative external awards that routinely totaled over \$5M/year. We have the Idaho Accelerator Center (on campus) -- one



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of the top low energy accelerator facilities in the Western US; we have INL up the road. We have the potential to regain the research prominence that we've lost and grow our undergraduate enterprise if only given some minor investment. ISU Physics is suffering the same decline trends as COSE and the university have suffered since the failure of our international student initiative (and even before then). But Physics is not supported here, and I do not know why? Sorry to say this, but it is hard to find Trust, Compassion, and Stability in Physics at ISU and our last holdout, Hope, is now fading fast. Our grad student spaces have now been taken from us and all our students will be sent to the basement beamlab area (needing renovation of a laboratory space to make office space). While most of us have not been asked to move offices, our admin assistant will move to another building. The Dean's office will renovate and move into our admin space and remove our mail/coffee/printer/office supply room as well as free use of our conference room. There has been little communication from leadership regarding our impending displacement. This move will cripple our admin functions, recruitment, and so on. This latest assault on Physics shows that neither the College, nor perhaps the University, wants to try to help (at least) maintain a functional Physics program at ISU. ISU has been the clear leader in physics degrees awarded in our beloved state. This certainly cannot continue if we are effectively stripped of everything, including now our dignity (as educators, researchers, and human beings). Please intervene before it's too late. We need three things now: to be a department, a new (external) chair hire, and we cannot lose our administrative department space with no real plan for its future replacement (reckless). I request and welcome the opportunity to meet with you to further discuss these matters. I am not a trouble-maker. I write this letter whole-heartedly as my only hope to plead for some compassion towards Physics and to have more responsible change in COSE during our strategic planning initiative.

Sincerely,
Dustin McNulty"