

- I. The April 27, 2016 meeting of the University Senate was **called to order** at 2:45 pm.
- II. **Roll Call** - Present: Allen, Alvares, Collins, Curnutt, Jonathan Cutler, Field, Fleming, Friedman, Gainor, Gardin, Gingerich, Higgins, Jacobson, Kelton, Lal, Lucas, Mengara, Misra, Murray, Noonan, Oosting, Parashar, Pennington, Powell, Sadowsky, Salzman, Samuels, Specchio, Sullivan, Trubatch, and Wolfson.
- III. **Approval of March 30 2016 minutes** –motion passed
- IV. **Good News/Announcements**
  - a. Dr. Mark Favata and Dr. Sarah Lowe presented at the cross-disciplinary lunches. If you have interdisciplinary research or interests, and would like to present next year, let us know.
  - b. Senator Deebi is on leave now through Spring of 2017. He will be vacating an at-large position that will need to be filled. We now have 31 voting members.
  - c. The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Greek play in the amphitheatre, Euripides' *Andromache*, went very well
  - d. Thanks to all who helped to make registration through NEST a success.
- V. **Elections Committee Report**
  - a. The constituency elections were put out piecemeal to the campus community, so voting will be extended through Monday.
  - b. We will need to vote for the entire eboard at the next meeting. Please consider running. We will try to assemble a slate, will also take nominations from the floor. We can have a committee of the whole and the candidates can make a statement. It was requested that a description of procedure and duties be distributed prior to the meeting. Senator Mengara pointed out that the duties are included within the constitution
- VI. **Report from Administration – no report**
- VII. **Academic Affairs Council Report – no report**
- VIII. **Administrative Affairs Council Report – no report**
- IX. **Student Affairs Council Report– no report**
- X. **NAL Report – no report**
- XI. **Motion to Amend 1995 Constitution**
  - a. Article XII, Section B, number 1 was discussed: "A quorum of the University Senate shall consist of one-half plus one of the voting membership present at the meeting. Deviations from this rule, if any, shall be as set forth in the by-laws of the University Senate." It was suggested to change the statement to: "A quorum of the University Senate shall consist of one-half plus one of the voting membership. The total used to compute a quorum shall not include vacant seats." Senator Sullivan moved to keep the statement as amended. The motion passed with 19 in favor, none opposed, 1 abstention.
  - b. Article XII, Section B, number 3 was discussed. "Robert's Rules of Order, as revised, shall be the governing rules of University Senate sessions, except where inconsistent with other University Senate regulations and/or by-laws." It was suggested to change "regulations" to "Constitution." This motion passed with 18 in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions.
  - c. New Article XIII, which addresses amendments to the Constitution, was discussed. It was suggested to add "or" between numbers 1, 2, and 3, and to add "specialists" to number 3. There was discussion as to whether the number of people necessary to bring forward an amendment should be a percentage or a hard number, and what the appropriate number would be to prevent nuisance amendments while also keeping the door open for changes. It was suggested to insert the same sentence about vacant seats that was used in article XII, Section B number 1 into Article XIII Section A number 2.

- d. A straw poll was taken on whether a percentage or hard numbers should be used for numbers 2 and 3. Two were in favor of a percentage and 15 were in favor of hard numbers. Senator Sullivan suggested those numbers should be 5 senators for number 2 and 50 senators for number 3. Senator Mengara did not accept that amendment as we already have larger numbers needed to add an agenda item, which is less serious.
- e. Senator Kelton suggested that the numbers be 7 voting senators for number 2 and 100 people for number 3. Senator Mengara accepted that amendment. Senator Sullivan moved to take numbers 1-4 and vote as amended. The motion passed with 18 in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions.
- f. The last statement of article XIII was discussed: "All proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be remanded to the Constitution Committee." It was suggested that a timeframe should be given for when action should be taken. The role of the committee is to make sure the proposal is in a proper format to get voted on, and the committee can also make a recommendation on the proposal.
- g. A straw poll was taken. 17 were in favor of a specific timeframe when the Committee should report back and 1 was in favor of stating "as soon as possible." There was one abstention.
- h. Senator Mengara accepted the friendly amendment of "no later than two meetings." The two paragraphs now read "Proposed amendments to this Constitution *that meet one of the four criteria* may be submitted to the University Senate at any regular meeting. All proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be remanded to the Constitution Committee *and will be brought for a first reading after no later than two meetings.*" 19 were in favor of keeping the two paragraphs as amended with none opposed and 1 abstention.
- i. Article XIII Section B, number 1 was discussed: "The Constitution Committee shall prepare the motions as well as the language of the motions for amendment to be presented to the University Senate. The Constitution Committee will meet and consult with the Executive Board prior to bringing motions forward to the floor of the University Senate." It was proposed that this language be changed to: "The Constitution Committee shall prepare the motions as well as the language of the motions for amendment to be presented to the University Senate for a first reading. The Constitution Committee will meet and consult with the Executive Board prior to bringing motions forward to the floor of the University Senate for a first reading."
- j. It was suggested to change the language of number 2 to "The Constitution Committee shall circulate a written and/or an electronic copy of the proposed amendments to all the members of the University Senate *prior to the first reading.*"
- k. Number 3 was changed to read "All proposed amendments shall be circulated at least 15 days prior to each reading. Amendments received fewer than 15 days prior to the next scheduled meeting will be carried over to the following scheduled meeting."
- l. Number 4, it was suggested to change "Two-thirds of the voting membership present at the meeting" to "two-thirds of the eligible voting members present at the meeting." It was also proposed to add "The total used to compute the quorum shall not include vacant seats."
- m. It was suggested to add the clause about vacant seats to number 5.
- n. It was suggested to change number 6 to "Approved amendments to the Constitution will take effect when the final version of the amendment is approved by the University Senate unless otherwise specified in the amendment. The Senate's responsibility is to disseminate to all University constituencies, and publish to the public eye, the current version of the Constitution and its amendments."
- o. It was pointed out that there were currently only 20 voting senators in the room, which is not two-thirds of the voting membership, although there is a quorum. Number 5 was changed to read "Ratification of a proposed amendment by the University Senate shall require an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the voting membership who are present at the meeting." A vote was taken. 12 were in favor, none opposed and 6 abstentions. It was determined there were so many abstentions because things were still unclear. The language was changed to "two-thirds of the the eligible voting membership and who are present at the meeting."
- p. At 5:04 the quorum was lost and the meeting was adjourned.