

Senate Year End Report

2017-2018

Donnetrice Allison, President (2017-2019)

As I reflect on the ninth year of operations of the Faculty Senate, I am first and foremost humbled and honored to be the first woman and first person of color to hold this position. I want to thank all those who held the office before me for their support and advice, particularly the immediate past president, who I had the pleasure of serving as vice president. While each president has had his own style, I am grateful for the freedom I had to carve out my own path. I am also grateful for the dedication and forward thinking of the Senate Executive Committee. They were an incredible group to work with, and I truly appreciate their patience as I learned the ropes and found my way. I know that whatever success I have had as President has been due largely to their efforts.

This year, the Senate met eight times, which included the end-of-the-year retreat in May. The Faculty Assembly met three times, which included a meeting with the University President on the State of the University. This document will provide an overview of the actions undertaken by the senate this year, and also a review of issues raised and discussed. The document begins with a simple listing of actions, then continues with a more detailed summary of each. Additional information about each meeting, standing committee and task force can be found on the senate webpage <https://stockton.edu/faculty/senate/index.html>

Senate Actions

1. Adopted changes to Faculty Senate Attendance Policy.
2. Approved resolution to name the event room of the Atlantic City Academic Building "The Fannie Lou Hamer Event Room."
3. Senate Executive Committee changed the AY 2018 Senate meeting schedule to Fridays at 12:45 (within the Friday course module).
4. Approved POLS International Affairs Concentration.
5. Formed Task Force on Hate Speech in Academia.
6. Approved STEAM LIBA for EDUC.
7. Approved BA in Africana Studies
8. Formed Task Force on LIBA
9. Approved Business Analytics Concentration in BUSN
10. Approved changes to policy on accepting undergraduate transfer credits
11. Approved minor in Migration Studies

12. Approved CLCE Concentration.
13. Approved recommendations of the SAT Optional Task Force
14. Approved Cannabis Studies Minor.
15. Approved moratorium on LIBA degree proposals

Summary of Senate Actions

Proposals

This year, the Faculty Senate approved two new Bachelor's degrees: in Africana Studies and in STEAM as a LIBA in the School of Education. The BA degree in Africana Studies was approved to begin in fall 2019 within the School of Arts and Humanities, while the STEAM degree was approved as part of the School of Education LIBA structure. The senate also approved three new concentrations: International Affairs in POLS, Business Analytics in BUSN and Community Leadership and Civic Engagement (CLCE) in GENS under LIBA. The final approved concentration led to a great deal of discussion and concern regarding the purpose and direction of the LIBA degree, which will be further addressed later in this report. Finally, the Senate approved minors in Migration Studies and Cannabis Studies. While most of the above proposals were approved without debate, some raised concern. Both degrees that were associated with the General Studies LIBA had several "No" votes, and raised questions about the structural change of the original intent of LIBA as an individualized degree: the STEAM LIBA vote was 15 to 8 in favor, and the CLCE vote was 23 to 9 in favor. Moreover, there were also concerns raised about the Minor in Cannabis Studies and how it would relate to statewide issues regarding legalization of marijuana. The final vote was 21 to 6 in favor. In sum, these three votes indicate that the Senate worked hard to maintain its integrity as a body and to offer thorough review of each proposal.

Task Forces

The Senate formed two task forces this year: the Task Force on Hate Speech in Academia and the Task Force on LIBA. The Task Force on Hate Speech in Academia came about due to a shift in the national climate after the election of the current President of the United States. Universities across the country, including Stockton, are now dealing with a new normal, whereby racial and cultural intolerance seem to be more vocalized. Furthermore, some specific incidents at Stockton also now

and publicize the dates of those meetings to the College community” (Article 5:9). As such, the

would unfairly advantage students with greater resources, who could afford to retake a course more than once. The committee asserted that some students might “graduate” as a result of such a policy change.

Lastly, a subgroup of the Committee on Campus Diversity and Inclusive Excellence to discuss an initiative on “decolonizing the curriculum” with the Faculty Senate. The committee’s primary goal is to further diversify the curriculum by helping faculty to incorporate more underrepresented voices and views into their courses through a variety of readings and assignments. The committee explained that they would spend the academic year researching this endeavor, create a webpage, and then assist faculty from all disciplines in finding those diverse voices. The Senate is looking forward to hearing an update from this committee in the near future.

Final Thoughts

As previously stated above, this was a very busy and active year for the Senate, and as president, I am proud of the work we accomplished and look forward to following up on some of these important issues in the coming academic year.