

College Council Minutes

Friday, November 20, 2020

10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Joseph Blaney, Neil Christenson, Elizabeth Chupp, Tony Crubaugh, Chris Gjesfeld, Trish Gudeman, Larissa Kennedy, Kimberly Nance, Sally Perry, Brent Simonds, Aaron Smith, Richard Sullivan, Lisa Szczepura, Andres Vidal-Gadea, Lisa Vinney, Diane Zosky

Students Present: Katie Crook, Katie Ishizaka, Tamila Williams, Jewel Woodward

Guests: Rachel Hatch, Doris Houston, Samiat Solebo, Logan Williams

Students Absent: Michele Calabrese, Logan Sauers

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

Approved Meeting Minutes for October:

- Motion to Approve – Elizabeth Chupp
- 2nd to Approve – Larissa Kennedy

Aaron Smith, Chair of College Council:

- Gave meeting to Dean Zosky.

Dean's Remarks by Diane Zosky:

- Two issues that need to be discussed:
 - CAS Distinguished Lecturer – there are currently three people waiting to give their lecture. Does College Council want to sit out the call for nominations this year in order to get caught up? No one has applied yet this year. Motion to postpone - Aaron Smith, 2nd - Kimberly Nance, and passed by unanimous vote.
 - Due to some additional changes to the College Bylaws, requested by the Rules Committee, a meeting is being requested by Dean Zosky. Changes are significant enough that College Council needs to vote. We will meet on Friday, December 18th at 10:00 am.

Remarks by Doris Houston, Interim, Assistance to the President in Diversity:

- Student Listening Forums started the end of October. The goal was lots of social action working towards Diversity and Inclusion on campus. Attendance was lower than hoped, due to COVID and type of semester. Ray Hatch to work with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

Information from Logan Williams & Samiat Solebo regarding forums:

- Shared an informative Power Point presentation.
- Participation for the planning committee was low about 17 to start. The 3 separate forums had much lower participation than expected.
- Wondering if low turnout was due to lack of awareness, little emphasis, and no incentives. Is it possible CAS and divisions could have done a better job of sharing the information? It is important that a clear partnership be in place between CAS and initiative.
- Some concerns: classrooms have little validity as a safe space, lack of involvement from staff, need review of political and social impact in both personal and academic settings, and tenured professions.
- Concerns in the Social Sciences, Humanities, and Natural Sciences: lack of representation of students of color, lack of examination of impact of mental health over time on students of color, lack of teachers of color, and many students feel singled out and have considered leaving their major.

- There were issues between students during the election. Could ISU have done a better job of upholding the college's standards for diversity?
- Minority group should be able to share thoughts, feelings, and concerns. Steps need to be taken to make changes, but not up to minority students to do this.
- Ideas to improve: some adjustments and improvements can be made, promotional video, promote on social media or flipgrid, and hold forums during student breaks.

Remarks from Ray Hatch:

- Logan & Samiat did a great job of piloting the program and developing it quickly. We need to look at ways of making the program sustain itself.

Comments from College Council Members:

- Dean Zosky: College Council will talk a bit further in December on ways to build infrastructure, promote enthusiasm in students, hear the voices and opinions of students. This remote semester may have discouraged participation.
- Aaron Smith: College Council is committed to continuing actions and discussions. Wondering if connecting with RSO groups would be beneficial.
- Lisa Szczepura: Has been bothered by lack of minority students in sciences and has mentored minority students to help. Would like to encourage faculty members to get positive information out.
- Andres Vidal-Gadea: Make up of departments does send a message. Would it help to diversify more at the faculty level?

Motion to adjourn - Richard Sullivan

Motion seconded - Andres Vidal-Gadea

Meeting adjourned at 10:50

Next meeting – Friday, December 18th