

Minutes of FITC Meeting Thursday, March 10th, 2022

Zoom meeting 12:00 – 1:00

In attendance: Sungwoong Lee, Phillip Grant, Brian Henderson, Philip Reaves, Mark Reeves, Yvonne Fuentes, Elizabeth Smith, Tami Ogletree

The committee approved the minutes of February 11, 2022

Updates:

- Result of the Faculty Senate Meeting Vote on Parking Fees -The vote to endorse the Joint Parking Subcommittee’s proposal failed: 19 to 20 votes. Mark Reeves informed FITC that he has spoken with President Kelly a number of times and emphasized how important it is for the new VP for Business and Finance to be in this committee.
- Faculty Communication Committee – Phillip Grant informed FITC that after further discussion with AAUP, the subcommittee recommends the following: [full report and recommendation attached]

“faculty senate should create an “All Faculty” listserv that any adjunct, lecturer, clinical, tenure-track, or tenured faculty member may post to. The purpose of this listserv is to share potential research or funding opportunities, recruitment for research participants, or opportunities for students. Faculty members may post any message for the aforementioned purposes. Each message must be approved by a moderator before it is posted. Replying to the listserv is not allowed; respondents must write a new email response to the sender. Any faculty member may opt out of the listserv.

In addition to these guidelines, we recommend the following rules for the moderation team:

Messages must fall within the purposes of the listserv

No political or religious speech is allowed

No humor or satire speech

During the discussion of this recommendation, members named the Chair of the Faculty Senate, the Executive Secretary of the Faculty Senate, and the Ombuds as possible options for the role of moderator. FITC voted to present this to the Faculty Senate as an information item in March, and seek input regarding moderator. Phillip Grant and Brian Henderson will present the process, rationale and suggestion to the Senate on March 18th.

- Tech Fees – Perry Kirk was not able to attend but sent a message saying that since the tech fee process had just started, he would have a report for us in April.
- Bookstore Update – Elizabeth Smith gave an update on her team and the importance they place on accessibility, equity, affordability, while protecting students’ privacy, and faculty’s academic freedom to decide content and material not limited to just what one vendor can provide. The team realized that a big issue was communication. The work the team had been doing was not filtering up. Her presence in this committee should contribute to remedy that. Regarding accessibility and affordability, the team’s aim is to

continue to have UWG dictate to partners and vendors what it is that our students and faculty need. In her words, “UWG is driving decisions that the tech group [Willo Labs] make.”

- Community Engagement and Collaboration with UWG Police Department - The Rules Committee has our information and request to expand our membership to include a person from the PD. Faculty will have to vote on the change to our membership.
- Commencement Committee - As members of the Commencement Committee, Tami Ogletree and Elizabeth Smith reminded us that graduation is on May 14. There will be three ceremonies with 333 graduates at 9:00 am; 373 graduates at 1:00 pm; 421 graduates at 5:00 pm. The processional and seating will be the same as Summer and Fall 2021.

New Item:

Dan Williams suggested we discuss having the chair of the Staff Advisory Council attend FITC meetings as *ex officio* member. They too had been working on the parking fee issue, and had we known we would have/could have consulted with SAC. After much discussion, FITC voted unanimously to expand our membership to include the Chair of the SAC as an *ex officio* member of FITC. Fuentes will send that information and request to the Rules Committee as well, for them to present and for the faculty to vote.

Reminder: The next FITC meeting is on Thursday, April 7th at 12:00, via Zoom.