



Sixth Regular Meeting
2023-2024 Bradley University Senate
3:10 p.m., Thursday, March 21, 2024
Ballroom, Michel Student Center



MISSION:

Bradley University empowers students for immediate and sustained success in their personal and professional endeavors by combining professional preparation, liberal arts and sciences and co-curricular experiences. Alongside our dedication to students, we embrace the generation, application and interpretation of knowledge.

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Pres. Drake at 3:11

II. Announcements

0. The meeting is being recorded and livestreamed. Thank you, IT!

1. Upcoming elections for senate, committees

Another announcement - 1st Federated Church is holding a vigil in lower Bradley park – info will be shared.

III. Approval of the Minutes of the Fifth Regular Meeting of the 2023-2024 University Senate, February 15, 2023.

See attached Minutes

Motion: Sen Schweigert

Second: Landon Williams

Approved unanimously

IV. Report from Student Body President Jack Batz

Student Senate has been focused on the changes to the commencement ceremony. Student feedback did lead to a compromise – changing from the administration’s original plan of three undergraduate ceremonies down to two ceremonies. Student senate passed a resolution asking for continued discussion moving forward regarding future commencements.

Election season is coming up.

V. Reports from Administrators

A. Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Zakahi

1. VPs have held listening sessions with faculty who work with international students. The goal is to enhance their experiences with low- or no-cost changes. Most of our graduate students are from India, and they believe that word-of-mouth recruiting is important with this prospective recruiting pool so good experiences are important.
2. Rui Li has shared a draft of an intellectual property policy document with the Deans and received feedback that is being incorporated. Expect that within 2 weeks or so college leadership will see revised draft.
3. Noted the loss of our colleague Lori Russell-Chapin and what a huge loss for the University this is.

Questions

Sen. Landon Williams – Said there have been rumors in the last few weeks regarding applications to the MBA program – students are hearing that it is going online or being canceled altogether. Asked for clarification on what is happening.

Prov. Zakahi – A decision has not been made, we are holding on the decision based on enrollment. We are considering the possibility of replacing the current MBA program with a couple of “niche” masters programs in high demand areas that would be online programs – there is a hold on student applications until the decisions are made. Hoping to make a decision by the end of the year.

LW – If the program is cancelled will it be communicated to students? Will it go through University Senate?

WZ – Yes, to the communication, not sure to whether it would go through University Senate.

Sen. Smith – Will my application for tenure be decided on its merits?

Zakahi – “I would imagine” that we would evaluate based on merits

TS – Asked if he could get that in writing.

WZ – Said he would have to consult others before answering

Edward Flint – Asked how many positions have been lost based on the Fall 2023 cuts and how many positions will be hired for fall and how many more will be lost in the next year.

WZ – Did not have the numbers available

Pres. Drake – Asked if the Provost could bring these data to the next meeting

WZ – agreed to this

Sen. Teresa Drake – Asked if the IP policy would come through C&R and through senate.

WZ – Indicated that he has no objection to routing through senate, but was uncertain whether the committee should be C&R or Contractual Arrangements.

B. President Standifird

1. Update to bonding structure – Noted that the suggestion in the recent WCBU article that violation of covenant led to the recent cuts was misleading. Commented on bond restructuring that is being worked on now. CFO will provide more details in April.
2. Commented on the success of the men’s basketball team and how important community support is and how important the exposure is.

3. We are getting \$950,000 in federal appropriations to purchase equipment and train 23 engineers per year to develop electrification standards for reliable solar power production. Credited both Senator Dick Durbin and David Zietlow for making this happen.
4. Noted that a core element of our strategic vision is the ability to understand and respond to the needs and desires of students. To aid with this Sen. Muncie is heading up a “student voice project” that involves open-ended student interviews, the results of which will be used to create focus group conversations in fall. Setting up structure to do this on a biannual basis.
5. Commented on anti-semitic graffiti on campus and reiterated that we will not tolerate actions of this sort. Indicated that there is an active investigation underway and that we plan to implement activities that promote civil dialogue on campus in anticipation of tense issues related to upcoming elections.

Questions

Eden Blair – Noted that administration didn’t use student needs in their decision making process related to the recent cuts.

SS – Stated that student demand (enrollment) is part of student voice.

EB – Reminded the President that he stated in a Senate meeting that they only looked at financial information. She asked if he thinks that’s all students care about. Also noted that 61 faculty have been cut and asked how that equals \$10 million dollars in savings.

SS – Offered to come back and talk about it at a later meeting. But stated that the savings from these cuts actually comes out to \$10.4 million dollars. He noted that he has a very complicated spreadsheet that shows this and that this spreadsheet has been shared with the Board of Trustees.

EB – Asked whether the budget will be \$10M less next year?

SS - Said “No” and that it will be phased in over time and we will expand faculty in some areas where there is desperate need

EB - Asked what the permanent change in budget will be moving forward? Noted the understanding that the Board demanded \$10M in permanent cuts.

SS – Stated that any new or replacement faculty lines will be based on student demand and that he is unable to say exactly what that number is going to look like 4 years from now.

Adalia Yeung (student) – Noted that there aren’t many sections of courses available in the schedule of classes, and many of them are 100-level, and asked what the university is going to do about this, including how they plan to handle waitlists.

SS – Said that we will address it by finding people to teach the needed sections if this occurs.

Sen. Tyler Smith – Reminded the president that at the February meeting he had asked about cuts to administration, and that the President said he would have the details on that by the end of March.

SS – Stated that 70 staff reductions have occurred and that he is working on restructuring the senior leadership team. He said he had hoped to be able to share today – but that given the high profile nature of those positions he doesn’t want to share unless there is

absolute certainty. He stated he is confident that he will be able to share in April and that he is committed to executing the changes by the end of semester.

Pres Drake – Noted that based on the Miles education contract it looks like student tuition will be \$14,000 by the time we pay Miles and asked if this is accurate.

SS – Said he was unable to answer and would need to consult with WZ or EK

VI. Reports from Committees

A. Curriculum and Regulations

1. Curriculum Consent Items

244116	Course Addition	IME IME 690 Engineering Data Analytics Capstone

247433	Course Modification	ENC ENC 707 Action Research 5: Scholarly Writing and Presentation in Action Research
247430	Course Modification	END ENC 706 Action Research 4: Data Analysis and Reporting in Action Research
246696	Course Modification	MUS MUS 166 Keyboard Skills-Class Piano
246695	Course Modification	MUS MUS 165 Keyboard Skills-Class Piano
246694	Course Modification	MUS MUS 164 Elementary Ear-Training and Sightsinging
246693	Course Modification	MUS MUS 163 Elementary Ear-Training and Sightsinging
246692	Course Modification	MUS MUS 162 Music Theory II
246691	Course Modification	MUS MUS 161 Music Theory I
246353	Course Modification	THE THE 339 History of the American Musical Theatre
246342	Course Modification	PSY PSY 320 Human Factors Psychology
246255	Course Modification	PSY PSY 424 Intermediate Statistics for Psychology
246221	Course Modification	ENG ENG 311 Introduction to Language
246066	Course Modification	FCS FCS 451 Child Life Profession
245904	Course Modification	FCS FCS 340 Parent Education
245523	Course Modification	MUS MUS 348 Resonant Fusion
235585	Course Modification	ATG ATG 200 VITA – Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

249180	Core Curriculum Addition	BUS BUS 401 Senior Consulting Project II
245671	Core Curriculum Addition	ANT ANT 303 Culture and Belief: Magic, Witchcraft, Religion
244808	Core Curriculum Addition	IDP ART 490 Art Seminar
243812	Core Curriculum Addition	ATG ATG 101 Survey of Accounting
243207	Core Curriculum Addition	P T KHS 310 Statistical Procedures in Health

Sciences

Mat Timm - Moved to pull this item out to approve separately. and asked whether the math department had been contacted given that this is a statistics course and math offers statistics
Melissa Peterson (PT Chair)– Stated that this course has been on the books for many years and that this proposed change only converts the existing course to add a writing intensive tag.

Motion to approve – Mat Timm

Second – Ollie Nanyes

Unanimous approval

210595 Core Curriculum Addition HIS HIS 350 Historical Methods Seminar

Sen. Schweigert moved to approve the other items above.

Unanimous approval.

2. Curriculum Items Requiring a Motion

248776	Major Modification	ATG Accounting
244006	Course Modification	ATG ATG 470 Data Analytics for Accounting
245901	Major Modification	FCS Child Life Science
245905	Course Addition	FCS FCS 350 Matters of Life and Death
245906	Core Curriculum Addition	FCS FCS 350 Matters of Life and Death
245407	Major Modification	I M Game Art
245404	Major Modification	I M User Experience Design
245403	Major Modification	I M Game Design
245427	Major Deletion	I M Animation and Game Design
248893	Course Deletion	I M I M 430 Animation & Game Design Thesis 1
248894	Course Deletion	I M I M 431 Animation & Game Design Thesis 2
249232	Concentration Deletion	ECL Pre-K-12 Educational Administration and Leadership
249237	Course Deletion	ECL ENC 735 Personnel, Unions, and Collective Bargaining
249236	Course Deletion	ECL ENC 732 Legal & Ethical Issues Facing the Superintendency
249235	Course Deletion	ECL ENC 734 Educational Finance
249234	Course Deletion	ECL ENC 731 The Superintendency and District-Level Administration
249233	Course Deletion	ECL ENC 733 Strategic Decision-Making and Supervision

Motion to approve all of these – Sen. Schweigert

Unanimous approval

3. Motion to approve Academic Calendars

See attached 2027-28 calendar to approve, and amendments to the 2024-25, 2025-26, 2026-27 calendars to align terminology and formatting.

Motion to approve – Sen Schweigert

Andy Kindler – explained the purpose of the edits.

1. Remove “grades posted” entries – they belong in other locations.
2. Add semester info to final exam entries to make clear these are only for traditional semester courses.
3. Add “term ends” wording, not just commencement.
4. Make May interim a standalone like January interim. So now five blocks, fall, Jan, spring, may, summer

Unanimous approval

B. International Initiatives

1. Motion to change Handbook language regarding the membership of the committee.

See attached proposal

Motion already on the floor from last meeting.

Sen. Timm – Noted that faculty cuts mean that we need to reduce the number of committees and their size. Suggested passing the motion now but revisiting later.

Unanimous approval

C. Handbook Rewrite Ad Hoc Committee

Motion to change Article I.D.1, I.D.2, I.D.3, page 5, of the Faculty Handbook as indicated in the 3rd column of the attached document.

(Note: The remainder of Part I.D.3, starting with the last sentence on page 5, is not changed by this motion.)

Motion already on floor.

Unanimous approval

D. Contractual Arrangements

Report on the Miles Education agreement – posted on Canvas.

Elena Gabor – Committee is concerned about

1. \$5000 per student fee seems high – were their attempts to negotiate it down?
2. How will students be properly trained in business law if our Business Law program is being discontinued?
3. Is there a strategy around “boutique” tuition prices?
4. Contract stipulates mediation rather than the more commonly used arbitration
5. Staff will be ready but staff positions are precarious and do not make a living wage.

Sen Timm – Asked whether the committee posed these questions to administration

EG – Noted that they shared it with Pres. Drake, who can forward to administration

Sen. Smith – Indicated that the contract was signed Feb. 29, before the committee evaluated it.

Sen. Corbett – Asked how \$19,000 compares to other graduate programs we have.

Pres. Drake – Noted that as a point of reference, the average tuition for undergrads (with discounts) is \$17,000

Sen. Corbett – Suggested this seems like a too low tuition rate and asked whether senate had the \$19,000 number?

Eden Blair – Noted that her department had agreed to helping deliver this program contingent on getting another faculty line.

Sen. Hogan – Asked what the handbook says about senate or senate committee role in approving these sorts of contracts before they are signed? Should we strengthen the language?

EG – Agreed and noted this was the first time a contract of this nature came to the committee

Sen. Karin Smith – Asked how many credit hours are in the program as this would help allow pricing comparison to nursing grad programs. Answer was 21 hours, and Sen Smith then noted this makes the pricing comparable to nursing.

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

Sen. Emily Schnurr (political science) – described results of a student survey focused on the cuts from fall. See attached results.

Sen. Corbett asked about how it was distributed.

ES – Flyer with QR code and sent to all department chairs asking them to share out and that there were 291 responses in total.

Sen. Libby Tronnes – Asked ES to please share the full report for the library archives.

Landon Williams – Asked whether this report will be shared with the BOT.

Pres Drake – Answered yes.

IX. Adjournment