

# SPLS FACULTY MEETING MINUTES

**Place:** Saguaro Hall, Room 225

**Date:** 11/17/2023

**Time:** 12:00 PM – 1:30PM

**Facilitator:** Dr. David Galbraith

## IN ATTENDANCE

**In person:** Janis Rutherford, Leslie Bonilla, David Galbraith, Betsy Arnold, David Baltrus, Alex Bucksch, Alex Hu, Shelly McMahon, Giovanni Melandri, Rebecca Mosher, Marc Orbach, Samantha Orchard, Ravi Palanivelu, Duke Pauli, Mohammad Pessaraki, Barry Pryor, Rebecca Schomer, Ursula Schuch, Jesse Woodson, Zhongguo Xiong, Ramin Yadegari

**Zoom:** Bentley Fane, Matt Jenks, Eric Lyons

## BUDGET PRESENTATION: SPECIAL GUEST – JANIS RUTHERFORD (50 MINS)

- ❖ Business retreats and town halls are held multiple times a year. Attend to ask questions and hear the latest announcements.
- ❖ Q&A session proceeded.
- ❖ No additional information has been provided aside from the ABOR meetings.
- ❖ Deficit is not solely due to change in budget model. College has been experiencing a deficit for the past few years. Expenses have been higher than revenue.
- ❖ 3 years ago, the deficit was 3 million. Last year's deficit was 6 million. This year's deficit is 10 million.
- ❖ The faculty feels they have not been made aware of these deficits until recently and request better communication.
- ❖ Director position is crucial to SPLS, and the freeze is detrimental to the search.
- ❖ Betsy Arnold proposes to request hiring exception for Director role and plans to lead the initiative. The exception must be in writing per Janis.
- ❖ Dean Burgess influences must be directed to him.
- ❖ Janis encourages faculty to be vocal about the hiring exception, as well as with any growth and/or cost-saving ideas. (i.e. How to expand Yuma and Maricopa projects? Legacy degrees? Enrollment growth? Course design?)
- ❖ Concern about start-up fund policy. As of now, this policy has not changed.
- ❖ Reminder that financial information is made available online and you can work with Leslie to retrieve these prepopulated reports down to the account.

## RECORDING FACULTY MEETINGS THROUGH ZOOM

- ❖ Recording the faculty meetings over Zoom was proposed by Dr. Galbraith.
  - Motion failed.

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND FACULTY MEETINGS?

- ❖ To promote faculty governance, the meetings should be faculty only and others on a as needed basis.
- ❖ Possibly a separate quarterly meeting with staff may be needed.
- ❖ Who is considered “staff” needs to be defined.
- ❖ A Grad Student representative was proposed.
  - What is the value in this?
  - An eye-opening experience for the grad students and serves as a different perspective for faculty.
  - The faculty feels if grad student relevant topics are being discussed, then the representative should be invited. Otherwise, the grad student representative should not be present.
- ❖ Other meetings can be set up outside of faculty meeting such as a “State of the School” meeting, so that the space can be maintained for faculty.

## APPOINTMENT OF HILLARY MEHL AS A UFAD: MARC ORBACH

- ❖ Virginia Tech Assistant Professor
- ❖ Already collabs with SPLS faculty
- ❖ The committee voted 5 to 0, moving her forward in the process.
- ❖ A poll will be created to vote for Dr. Hillary Mehl's appointment.
- ❖ Dr. Orbach will make her CV and seminar link(s) available.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM DR. GALBRAITH

- ❖ SPFI search is developing. They would like to more efforts to work with Native American tribes.
- ❖ Quantitative measurements of faculty are in development.
- ❖ More teaching in order to get more grants.
- ❖ AI is a big opportunity to grow.
- ❖ Some faculty members are teaching a lot and doing well with research and others, not so much.
- ❖ Curriculums must be updated.
- ❖ Searching for new and creative ways to improve revenue, teaching, and research.



## WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT: ZHONGGUO XIONG

- ❖ November 27<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss the SPLS website.
- ❖ Poll will be sent out on what we want the website to look like.
- ❖ Web design will be discussed first. Web content will be discussed at a later time.
- ❖ Rosemary Brandt is in charge of Marketing and is assisting with website development.

## RETREAT: ALEX BUCKSCH

- ❖ Retreat plans are coming along.
  - Currently waiting for room confirmation.

## EXTENSION PROGRAMS: URSULA SCHUCH

- ❖ Extension searches are going excellent.
- ❖ Great candidates with extensive backgrounds and cutting-edge research.
- ❖ Please sign up to visit with candidates.
- ❖ Search for weeds scientist will proceed soon.

## FINAL COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ Welcome Alonso Favela to SPLS!
- ❖ Congratulations to Dr. Mosher on NSF awards!
- ❖ Save the Date from Dr. McMahon for recruitment event!