



KEAN
UNIVERSITY SENATE
FULL SENATE MEETING
MINUTES

March 2, 2021
2:15 p.m.-4:15 p.m.
Videoconference-Zoom

Senators in attendance:

ab-Ahlawat, •Anderson, •Baldwin, •Connors, •DiVirgilio, •Donovan, •Farrokh, •Filardo, •Gover, •Gubi, •Halper, •Joiner, •Knis-Matthews, •Lee, ab-Logue, •Lynch, •Mack, •Marks, •Moran, •Mulry, •Pintado-Casas, ab-Roebuck, •Sargent, •Schraer-Joiner, •Shebitz, •Stavola-Daly, •Webber, ab-Wetzel, •White, •Yucetepe

Student Representative:

Vacant

[•=present ex=Excused absent=ab]

Guests in attendance: Dr. Mike Salvatore

Meeting called to order by Chairman Donovan at 2:18

I. Minutes – February 16, 2021
A. Motion: Claire Mulry
B. Second: Ray DiVirgilio
C. Minutes unanimously approved
II. Curriculum Items for Notification and/or Vote-Notification Only
A. BS Management – Supply Chain Mgmt. option
B. BS Management – Entrepreneurship option
C. BS Management – Human Resources Mgmt. option
D. BS Management – General Business option
E. BS Marketing

III. Old Business

A. Course Caps

1. Chair Donovan explains that course caps are part of the course outline and that they are like a “contract” between faculty and students regarding what the course will cover and how it will be taught. Course caps have been changed without notice in the past. It is a concern that faculty review the numbers of students in sections and confirm that they match the course outlines.
2. At present, it is not known how many courses are running at above the allowable number. How can we identify courses that are running at numbers above the caps and inform the registrar that they need to be corrected?
3. Senators expressed concern that learning may be hampered by large class sizes. They noted that large classes may contribute to reduced retention by limiting contact with faculty and opportunities for remediation.
4. Senators emphasized the importance of evaluating student outcomes in large courses.
5. Chair Donovan suggested revisiting recommendations concerning course caps from a Presidential Task Force a few years ago. The Senate could make new recommendations, if necessary, for a general guideline regarding course sizes. He noted also that the course outline review process could offer an opportunity to revise caps as needed.
6. Senators also expressed concern about room sizes and course caps, noting that the courses are too large for the rooms in some cases. They noted also that when social distancing is required, the combination of small room sizes and large course caps is unworkable.
7. Senators requested a spreadsheet with a list of sections and capacities for Fall 20 and Spring 21.
8. Senators asked whether adding an overload would raise the cap for future iterations of that course, but this is not the case. The course cap remains in place until the course outline is changed.
9. Senators suggested that overloads are often allowed to assist students who need to graduate. It was suggested that the Senate invite the University’s Office of Student Success and Retention to present its strategy and recommendations for addressing course size.
10. Dr. Salvatore noted that the President has advised him to “jump in” to the concerns that the Senate raises. He is examining the course cap issue and the recommendations that have been used. He suggested that course cap requirements specific to the requirements of a given course might make the most sense.

B. Academic Governance

1. Chair Donovan introduced the concerns involving academic governance and executive directors (EDs) rather than chairs. One problem that the move to EDs created was a loss of faculty input in decision making. Because EDs were at-will employees, often untenured, they did not have sufficient power to challenge administration decisions. EDs also often have administrative

responsibility in departments and programs that are outside their areas of academic expertise.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Senators noted that there needs to be a consistent governance strategy across departments; currently, there is a mix of chairs and EDs. 3. Senators noted that having the ED removed from the ARTP process limits both faculty size and the influence that the ED can have on faculty promotion. 4. Senators observed that the ED was appointed by the administration and not elected by the faculty, so that the faculty could be managed more directly. 5. EDs also were on 10-month contracts who, when assuming the ED role were given a 12-month contract, often at the same salary as their 10-month contract. The EDs lose the summer research time that other faculty have. The chair role provides more flexibility in the schedule. 6. Senators noted that they no longer have 10-month lectures and that the 12-month lecturers do not have courses to teach in the summer. The departments need the voice and input to recommend appropriate lecturer contracts for the courses offered. 7. Senators noted that they have not been able to identify an R2 university that uses the ED structure. 8. Chair Donovan noted that there are many departments without mid-career scholars. There are more than 100 faculty who are eligible to retire, and there are few faculty members available to take their place. There are few associate professors in the faculty ranks. 9. Dr. Salvatore noted that the President wants to improve culture of the University and examining the ED structure will be part of that process.
<p>C. UCC Manual Resolution</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UCC manual was updated and the new manual is available on the Senate Web site. 2. UCC charges were altered to require committees to make their agenda public before the meeting. <p>D. Update on Art History program – postponed until the next full meeting (March 16, 2021)</p>
<p>IV. New Business</p> <p>A. Senators noted that Kean will be hosting a free conference on Open Educational Resources (OER) and that Kean faculty and students are encouraged to attend.</p> <p>B. Adjournment Motion: Matt Halper Second: David Joiner Meeting adjourned 3:20 PM</p>

V. Next Meetings

- A. Executive Committee Meeting – Tuesday, March 9, 2021 ~ Zoom Webinar at 2:15 p.m.
- B. Full Senate Meeting – Tuesday, March 16, 2021 ~ Zoom Webinar at 2:15 p.m.