

Faculty Senate
Rights and Responsibilities Committee
Minutes

September 26, 2017
9:00 am, New Science Building 4109

Note: Meeting location was changed to Library 208 approximately 8:15 a.m. due to IT issues in New Science Building

Present: Donghui Quan, Julie George, Melissa Vandenberg, Joe Gershtenson, Zekeriya Eser, John Fitch (guest)

Absent: Nancy McKenney

1. Schedule planning
 - a. Committee secretary selection
 - Joe Gershtenson volunteered, approved by acclamation
 - b. Meeting dates discussion
 - Regular meeting dates confirmed for Fall 2017, 9:00 a.m., 9/26, 10/24, 11/14, 12/5, Library 208
2. Background introduction (Fitch)
 - a. Former co-chair of R&R Committee, Senator Fitch
 - Explained importance of Committee and its accomplishments in 2016-2017
 - Encouraged members to understand Senate bylaws, Robert's Rules, and to understand that others might not always know everything regarding those and other rules and procedures
 - Explained some responsibilities of the Committee
 - Discussed open meeting requirements
3. Approval of meeting minutes – April 11th (2017) meeting
 - a. Passed unanimously
4. Charges from Faculty
 - a. Unedited comment concerning Fall 2017 convocation:

“At today's convocation, Dr. Benson called the winter/holiday break Christmas break and his PP slide also read as such. I think the university needs to be diligent in honoring and observing the separation of church and state in all of its affairs, policies, and announcements. Please consider sending a notice to the President's Office asking the university to clarify the announcement.”
 - Discussion of appropriateness of language used by President Benson regarding the break and potential action by Committee

Discussion: Committee to possibly revisit issue of faculty salary and include language regarding staff and other employees

Adjourn: 9:40 a.m.