2021-2022 FACULTY SENATE XXVI - March 2, 2022 Minutes Summary

Faculty Senate

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Minutes
Special Session of the Faculty Senate

Meeting called to order at 3:10 PM on March 2, 2022 via ZOOM MINUTES SUMMARY

John DeJoie introduced a Resolution of support for Ukraine and all affected by Russia’s invasion.

While reading the resolution John noted a change needed in the title. After he finished introducing the resolution, Chair Kevin Healey revisited the need for change. The title of the resolution was changed from Resolution of support for Ukraine and all affected by Putin’s Russian Invasion to Resolution of support for Ukraine and all affected by Russia’s Invasion.

Chair Kevin Healey confirmed the language of the motion was accurate and introduced with the edit to the title. John DeJoie answered in the affirmative.

Svetlana Peshkova seconded the motion.

The floor was opened for discussion.

A senator from economics shared two points:

1. The resolution needs an explicit acknowledgement of the division within Russia. The phrase “regardless of national origin” is meant to imply this, but needs to be explicit rather than implicit. There has been harassment of Russian nationals in the US. The resolution should take a stand against personalized attacks.

2. As educators the resolution needs to be connected to concrete information or actions that can be disseminated regarding the conflict. Students are getting information through social media, which is not always factually accurate. There are members of the senate with relevant expertise. The resolution should include access to factual information and further actions that can be taken.

A senator from Languages, Literature and Cultures raised a concern that by removing Putin’s name from the title, the resolution implies all of Russia is invading Ukraine. The request was made to ensure the resolution differentiates Putin’s actions from the sentiment of the Russian people. It’s important not to inflate aggression towards Russian nationals, those with Russian heritage or the Russian people opposed to this invasion. Putin’s name should be put back in the resolution somewhere.
A senator from Management commented that in section 2 of the resolution she asked if it would be useful to change “students” to “students, staff and faculty”. The senator reiterated the order, “students, staff and faculty”.

Vice Chair Matt MacManes asked if the senator was proposing a friendly amendment to the motion to which the senator responded, “yes I am”.

Senator DeJoie appreciated the amendment and explained in his zeal to get the motion out to senate for review, that language was mistakenly overlooked. Chair Kevin Healey made the change.

A senator from Sociology shared her support for the motion and the importance of condemning any aggression, hostility, or discrimination against another. She continued to share that this be a moment of a renewed senate commitment in being attentive to activities and events in the world outside the university. The hope is the senate continue to care for people outside the university as much as those within.

A senator from Mathematics and Statistics shared his personal support for the resolution, but in soliciting feedback from his constituency the question was raised by someone with more direct involvement in the Faculty Senate’s history of making statements about international affairs. The suggestion was the senate should think about when to make statements about international affairs as opposed to making a motion to providing support to the university members affected.

A senator from Anthropology shared she has people from both side of the conflict and she appreciated the comments shared by the other senators. However, this conflict involves the movement of nuclear weapons in the territory of the Russian Federation. This invasion is unprecedented and involves the whole world and not just Europe. The FS can strive to do better in the future but must do something now.

The senator from the Psychology Department shared her department voted unanimously in support of the resolution.

Jim Connell, Senate Parliamentarian noted the need for commas after the “whereas” throughout the document. He went on to suggest the language be changed from WHEREAS Russia invaded Ukraine to WHEREAS the Russian Federation under the Putin regime invaded Ukraine. The final language reads, WHEREAS, The Russian Federation invaded Ukraine under the Putin regime.

The senator from Occupational Therapy shared her full department supported this resolution and felt given the impacts across the world this invasion is at a different level of aggression than has been seen before. This being said, there is a need to be mindful about other kinds of transgressions across the planet.

There was a discussion around ensuring the language of the resolution acknowledged the bravery of the Russian people speaking out against the war. Language in #1 was changed to read, “We stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine, with the people of Russia risking their freedom by
opposing the invasion, and with all affected by this aggression, in calling for an immediate and unconditional cessation of the invasion of Ukraine; and”

Jim Connell moved to suspend the rules and vote on the resolution. He was seconded. Chair Kevin Healey called for a voice vote to suspend the rules and vote on the resolution. The vote to suspend the rules was passed by unanimous consent.

Chair Kevin Healey called for a vote on the resolution by a raise of hands. The resolution passed with 37 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned.