

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 26, 2021, MEETING OF THE FACULTY ASSEMBLY

Faculty Assembly Chair Ann Hall called the meeting to order at 2 PM. Prof. Hall requested that any assembly items for the next meeting be sent to her by March 18. She also announced that the University Testing Center had waived fees for makeup and online exams due to the pandemic.

The January 29, 2021, minutes were approved 55 to 0 with 3 abstentions.

The Chair recognized Interim Dean Owen, who apologized for the cancellation of today's virtual brown bag lunch. Future lunches will occur bi-weekly. The dean had no budget updates, but said the College ran a revenue deficit in Fall and he expects that the College will also have a Spring revenue shortfall. He is unsure what this will mean for College. He has just begun the A&S Identity Visioning Initiative with facilitated conversations led by senior staff to clarify how the College is distinctive from our peers. Finally, the Dean announced that A&S offices can close next Thursday and Friday for Spring Break with staff taking supervisor-approved leave (SLP). Advising staff will be available.

The Chair recognized Dean Otto, Curator of Speed Cinema. Since 2016, Otto and Speed Cinema have been using film as a way to build a stronger community through screenings, partnerships, and co-presentations with UofL. Faculty lead film discussions and serve on panels, and the Speed facilitates internships for UofL students. One former student intern now works for Criterion. Otto expects Speed Cinema to reopen by Fall. He is interested in restarting relationships with UofL to work on co-presentations. He is not looking for financial partnerships since funding for speakers is incorporated into his budget.

The Chair next recognized Kathy Hite, UofL retirement plan administrator. She stated that the University has partially reinstated mandatory contributions at 6% (down from 7.5%). This began with February paychecks and will continue through the end of June. She is unsure whether the contribution will be fully reinstated at that time. This benefit is available to 80% or greater FTE. Anyone who contributes 2.5% of their salary will receive an additional match of 2.5%. All told, this is an 11% contribution. Employees can choose between Fidelity and TIAA for contribution elections. The IRS limits employee contributions to 19.5% for those under 50. This increases to \$26,000 for those 50 and up. Contribution and plan elections can be made at www.netbenefits.com/UL. Kathy can provide tools to calculate plan percentages and can answer specific plan questions.

The Chair recognized Dave Brown in his capacity as Interim Associate Dean for Research. Dr. Brown presented proposed revisions to the College's minimum guidelines in graduate education. This proposal is intended to bring the College's policies into conformity with University revisions proposed in 2008 but never approved by the Provost's office. The new updates include changing the name from SIGS to the Graduate School, modifying the SIGS director's title, and modifying the minimum guidelines for graduate education. A question arose about section 2B5, which deals with the annual certification for graduate faculty. This will continue to be determined by annual review. The language was left intentionally vague to allow departments to continue their current practices. The revisions were approved 67-0 with 4 abstentions.

The Chair next recognized Karen Christopher, chair of the Curriculum Committee. Dr. Christopher presented a 12-hour undergraduate Certificate in Ethics, unanimously approved by the committee and Planning and Budget, for the Assembly's approval. The certificate was approved 65-0 with 2 abstentions. Dr. Christopher next presented the Department of Philosophy's proposed 15-hour graduate Healthcare Ethics Certificate for students who are unable to complete bioethics training. This certificate had also been reviewed and approved by the Curriculum Committee and Planning and Budget. The certificate was approved 62-0 with 5 abstentions.

The Chair next recognized Eugene Mueller for an update from the Faculty Senate. Dr. Mueller reported that the senate is establishing a committee to examine textbook access and will be looking for volunteers to serve. The Senate is preparing to consider the University's intimate relationships policy, and the executive committee will consider the faculty accountability policy next month. The printing policy will be considered at the senate's next meeting. The committee on shared governance is ready to start meeting. The senate expects that faculty will become eligible for vaccines as part of group 1C beginning on Monday. Those 65+ will receive invites first, then it will open to all faculty and staff. The student vaccination timeline has not yet been determined. The standby list is open to anyone:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Sm4k3TRUFU6K45Gtl5eyCSYYLIt-seFAjEPfGVgJOjJUNEIzS0hKSzVIMTAyTEk2T0RSTU84NzJFVCQIQCN0PWcu>

Although UofL is sending emails about the vaccine, the vaccination site is not on campus.

The chair next recognized Edna Ross, chair of the A&S Technology and Facilities Committee. She reported that technology upgrades, for the most part, have been favorably received – the exception being math faculty dissatisfied with stationary cameras that do not allow students participating remotely to see the board. IT is working on this. In addition, some faculty have reported diminished wi-fi access in their offices. Faculty who have issues with classroom technology or wifi access should email Dr. Edna Ross.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 PM.