

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met on August 21, 2019 at 3 p.m. in the Boardroom of the University Club, Vice Chair David Owen presiding.

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

David Owen, Enid Trucios-Haynes, Roger Bradshaw, Eugene Mueller, David Simpson, Roy Fuller, Reg Bruce, David Schultz

ALSO ATTENDING

Tracy Eells, Sabrina Collins, Zack Pennington, Edna Ross, Michael Cunningham

VOTING MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Krista Wallace-Boaz, Robert Barker

CALL TO ORDER

ACTION ITEM: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - OWEN

The minutes from April, May and June were approved unanimously as distributed.

REPORT: STUDENT GOVERNMENT - COLLINS

Ms. Collins reported on the academic portion of the SGA's 2025 Strategic Plan, beginning on page 11. Areas for improvement included:

- Advising – a review of advisors is recommended.
- Blackboard – Some course do not post a syllabus or grades. When all course materials are on Blackboard, students can succeed easier and it may help retention rates.
 - Question: Do you mean running grades and not a final grade?
 - Reply: Yes.

There is a policy to require the course syllabus is posted. A brief discussion took place on posting grades and enforcing it. Ms. Collins said that the SGA thinks these would help course performance.

- Grading Policy – The SGA would like a grading policy, not the +/- that is currently in use, that would make grading consistent across courses. For example, two students taking the same course with different instructors are graded differently. The SGA would like this policy to include graduate and professional students, as well.
- Affordability and Accessibility – The cost of textbooks, transparency of fees,
- Research – Develop a database of research opportunities available to undergraduate students.
- Redevelop Gen Ed 101 courses – Suggestions are listed in the plan.
- Develop ways to for commuter students to become more involved in campus activities. One suggestion is to have a Gen Ed 1010 course just for commuter students.
- Instructor Accountability - goes back to posting course materials and grades on Blackboard. The SGA would like some kind of accountability for faculty who do not follow the university policies.

Asked about improvements to sustainability, Ms. Collins said that students feel very strongly about this issue and think the University has dropped this ball on it. Dr. Tracy Eells said it is part of the University's mission. [The full plan is online.](#)

REPORT: STAFF SENATE - BROWN

Ms. Brown sent the following report. The Staff Senate did not meet in August. We are looking forward to our annual retreat September 9, 2019 at noon in the University Club Ballroom, with the meeting to immediately follow. Many staff volunteered for the over 60 events during Welcome Week. Finally, he

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asked that I share the following information about the free rec day schedule for the Student Recreation Center on August 28, 2019. The Student Recreation Center is having a free day for all faculty and staff next Wednesday, August 28. Faculty and staff may enjoy basketball, an indoor running track, indoor golf simulator, racquetball, squash, weight and fitness areas, indoor soccer and a variety of group fitness classes. Faculty and staff may also bring one guest at no charge. The center is located at 2030 So. 4th Street and will be open from 6:30 AM to 11:00 PM. Parking is available in a Blue Lot across the street and at metered parking on both the North and South ends of the facility.

REPORT: VICE CHAIR – OWEN

Faculty Senate Vice Chair reported on the following committees.

- Bookstore Advisory Committee – Ms. Sabrina Colls reported that the upperclassmen said it had been great to enter their student ID number and a list of their books popped up.
- ULAA – In an effort to make ULAA more flexible in decision-making, President Bendapudi proposed cutting membership to three people – the Athletic Director, a Board of Trustees member and herself. The Committee for Academic Performance (CAP) wrote a document pushing back on the proposed change. It suggested using the ULAA Executive Committee more efficiently. There was a discussion of making CAP a Faculty Senate committee.
- Budget Advisory Committee – This committee still meets to change the budget model. This year, a shadow budget model was used to see what it would look like. It should be done by late fall. Both he and Krista Wallace-Boaz serve on this committee.
- Task Force for Tuition and Fees – This committee is not currently meeting, but will begin soon.

DISCUSSION: AAUP PRINCIPLES & FOLLETT CONTRACT– CUNNINGHAM/ROSS

Dr. Michael Cunningham and Dr. Edna Ross joined the meeting for this discussion. Dr. Ross explained how she had implemented the Perusal program on the Facebook platform to engage her students. There was a high level of success. She asked the Delphi Center to add Perusal to Blackboard and was told that Follett does not allow that. The university's contract with Follett states that a third party must pay Follett to be added to Blackboard. Further, according to the contract, faculty are not allowed to promote other booksellers. The cheapest package Follett sells is \$150, but the publisher will sell it for less than \$100. UofL gets a portion of the sales, but Purchasing does not know what the mark-up is on textbooks. Dr. Cunningham, representing the UofL Chapter of AAUP, said that faculty are concerned with shared governance and how it plays out in this contract. This major decision was made that gives Follett veto power over faculty. He has not contacted University Counsel, yet. The discussion ended with the suggestion to invite University Counsel to clarify the contract with this committee, before endorsing AAUP's principles.

REPORTS: STANDING COMMITTEES

- Academic Programs Committee (APC) – Barker
- Committee on Committees & Credentials (CCC)
 - No report.
- Part-time Faculty Committee (PTF) – Fuller
 - This committee has not met.
- Planning & Budget Committee (P&B) – Bruce
 - This committee has not met.
- REDBOOK Committee (RB)
 - No report.

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OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Benefits Design Work – Schultz
 - This committee met over the summer. The healthcare premiums for 2020 will increase, as they are trying to get the ratios adjusted. The committee recently discussed retirement and will look at pharmacy at its next meeting. Changes for 2020 will be presented to the President's Council and both senates.
- Centers & Institutes – Bruce
 - Senator Bruce met with members of the Department of Infectious Disease to formalize their center.

OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Tracy Eells updated the committee on Interfolio and Faculty 180.

NEW BUSINESS

Question: Will the Consensual Sexual Policy be changed?

- Reply (Eells) – The provost is creating a committee to review the policy research, compare with benchmarks and to make revision recommendations. It was not prompted by anything, its last review was in 1999, so it is overdue.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Henry