

## **FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee (XC) met on January 19, 2022 at 3 p.m. online on the TEAMS platform, Vice Chair Eugene Mueller presiding.

### **VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT**

Robert Barker, Robert Detmering, Jose Fernandez, Roy Fuller. Karen Hadley, Candace Harrington, Eugene Mueller, Chin Ng, David Schultz, Enid Trucios-Haynes

### **ALSO ATTENDING**

Virginia Brown, Alexa Meza, Ian Norris

### **VOTING MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Patrick Harris, Rebecca Jemian, Sherri Wallace, Krista Wallace-Boaz

### **CALL TO ORDER**

### **ACTION ITEM: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - MUELLER**

The minutes of the November and December meetings were approved as distributed.

### **REPORT: STUDENT GOVERNMENT - MEZA**

Ms. Meza reported on the following topics.

**State Legislators** – The SGA leadership will meet with state legislators to discuss the importance of higher education.

**Rally for Higher Education** – The SGA will lead a group of students to Frankfort to attend the annual statewide Rally for Higher Education.

**Masks** – KN 94 masks are still available in the SGA office in SAC Room W310.

### **REPORT: STAFF SENATE - BROWN**

No report was made.

### **REPORT: AAUP – CUNNINGHAM**

No report was made.

### **REPORT: FACULTY SENATE CHAIR – SCHULTZ**

Chair Schultz made a report at the last week's full Faculty Senate meeting and had no additions.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **UofL COVID POLICY IN LIGHT OF THEOMICRON VARIANT - MUELLER**

Concerns that were raised in the discussion included the following.

- **No Alternative Options** - Concerns were raised that no alternative options exist to address faculty and students who cannot attend have clinicals and practicums if they have Covid symptoms. Graduation for students in their last year of a professional program could be negatively impacted if they miss clinicals or practicums.
- **No Flexibility** – Faculty are not able to take their classes online for a short time during the Omicron wave. Covid.
- **A&S Email** - Another concern was raised regarding the email from the Dean of A&S sent to chairs warning that any faculty who take their course online at their own discretion may face disciplinary action, perhaps under the new Faculty Accountability Policy. Many recipients

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thought the language was too heavy-handed and committee members expressed frustration that despite all the discussions and revisions to the policy, and reassurances to make the new policy palatable to faculty, it was being raised as a way to punish faculty. A recent article in the *Courier-Journal* alluded to a university-wide uproar regarding the lack of flexibility, but it was clarified that this was a communication from the A&S dean rather than UofL administration.

- **Social Media Post** –A committee member shared a Twitter post by a UofL graduate student. The committee member did not know the validity of the student’s circumstances but said there is a public perception that the university does not care about people's health.
- **Childcare Issues** – With Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) going to online learning, faculty are having difficulty finding childcare posing difficulties in coming to campus to teach in person.

As discussion ended, Committee Chair Mueller asked if the committee wanted to draft a formal statement concerning this issue to present to President Gonzalez. The consensus was to take these concerns when meeting with the president in person and not develop a formal statement at this time.

**Question:** Can the SGA rep tell us what she is hearing from students on this?

**Reply:** The conversations that I am hearing are very similar to the conversations that were heard in fall 2020, with the same level of worry and anxiety. Ms. Meza has not heard from any student that is not concerned. There is general confusion about what that students are supposed to do, even nearly two years into the pandemic.

### PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION - SCHULTZ

- **Update on the Search Process** - Senate Chair Schultz updated the committee on the search process. The Board of Trustees meets tomorrow, and the search will be a topic of discussion. Dr. Schultz has met with Board Chair Mary Nixon and stressed the need to have faculty involved in the entire process, not just the search. She has been receptive but does not speak for the full board. Dr. Schultz has reached out to other universities in the ACC, SEC, Big Ten, and other conferences to get information on their recent presidential searches.
- **Attributes of a New President** - Committee Chair Mueller made some clarifications to the current list of attributes. These changes include the following.
  - Date change
  - Inclusion of the Strategic Plan, Cardinal Principles and Anti-racism Agenda
  - Ability to work with community leaders and stakeholders
  - Emotional intelligence was requested as an addition under Leadership Abilities, though all agreed it is difficult, if not impossible, to measure.

After further wordsmithing of various attributes, Senate Chair Schultz will take this document to the Board of Trustees meeting tomorrow.

### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **ACADEMIC PROGRAMS – HARRINGTON**
  - This committee recently received a proposal for an MA in Applied Philosophy.
- **COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES & CREDENTIALS – JEMIAN**
  - This committee had no report.
- **PART-TIME FACULTY – FULLER**
  - This committee met and discussed compensation for part-time faculty who have prepared for a course that is cancelled before the semester begins. The committee is also going to work with the Employee Success Center for an orientation for part-time faculty.

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- **REDBOOK & BYLAWS – DETMERING**

- The REDBOOK Committee approved the A&S personnel policy revisions. They will be on the agenda for a first reading at the February meeting. The committee will review the School of Medicine’s personnel policy and revised bylaws. Also, the second reading of the School of Public Health’s bylaws will be held at the February meeting.

- **PLANNING & BUDGET – MUELLER**

- This committee received a proposal for the MA in Applied Philosophy and is waiting on the revisions from the proposers of the CEHD SKILLZ Center.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:08 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gretchen Henry