

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee (XC) met on January 26, 2022 at 3 p.m. in the University Club boardroom and online on the TEAMS platform, Vice Chair Eugene Mueller presiding.

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert Barker, Jose Fernandez, Roy Fuller, Karen Hadley, Candace Harrington, Patrick Harris, Rebecca Jemian, Eugene Mueller, Chin Ng, David Schultz, Enid Trucios-Haynes

ALSO ATTENDING

Virginia Brown, Michael Cunningham, Cherie Dawson, Alexa Meza, Ian Norris

VOTING MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Sherri Wallace, Krista Wallace-Boaz

CALL TO ORDER

REPORT: STUDENT GOVERNMENT – MEZA

Ms. Meza reported on the following.

- **Course Material Loan Project** - Students who need financial assistance will be able to check out their course materials through the Student Success Center.
- **Donation Drive** – SGA is working to repurpose and reuse course materials through this drive program.
- **Qualities of a President** – Talks are beginning on the qualities that students are looking for in the new president.

REPORT: STAFF SENATE- BROWN

President Gonzalez attended the December meeting and gave the same updates as she gave the Faculty Senate. The Staff Senate does not meet in January. The next meeting is on Tuesday, February 8th at 2:30 on TEAMS.

REPORT: AAUP - CUNNINGHAM

The AAUP is analyzing the most recent statement from President Gonzalez about flexibility with respect to courses. There is some controversy about what it does entail, and what it does not, especially in light of the early or threatening communications. There is no action planned. The second matter of concern has to do with bills in the Kentucky legislature dealing with critical race theory and an attempt to ban its teaching.

Question: What is the recourse on that? Is somebody going to challenge the law?

Reply: There is no simple answer to that question because it depends on which particular law comes down and then whether it is actually enforced. As it is a First Amendment issue, the AAUP would be happy to work with the ACLU.

REPORT: FACULTY SENATE CHAIR - SCHULTZ

Chair Schultz summarized his recent meetings.

- **Demographic 25 Steering Committee** - This committee will meet early next week. A faculty group will look at ways that faculty can help with enrollment issues. More information will come after the meeting.
- **Presidential Search Information** – Chair Schultz has reached out to faculty leadership at four different ACC schools and has heard back from Florida State University, Wake Forest and UNC-

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Chapel Hill. He will also reach out to Big Ten and SEC schools. He hopes to hear back within the next week of how their presidential searches were conducted. He will present a summary these searches.

- **Attribute List** – Dr. Schultz forwarded the Attributes List that this committee worked on last week to Ms. Mary Nixon, the chair of the Board of Trustees. She will forward that to the full board.
- **Master Plan Committee** – A Request For Proposals (RFP) was sent out for a master plan to encompass all three campuses in regard to utilities, buildings, and all other necessary considerations. This new committee is reviewing ten proposals that were submitted in response to the RFP.
- **Board of Trustees** - The Board of Trustees met last week and approved all the recommendations that were presented by the Executive and Compensation committees. The recommendations are in the Chair's Report from last month's full Senate meeting. The board approved financing to upgrade the Wi-Fi at Cardinal Stadium and financing for the Angels Envy Club at the stadium. There was a brief discussion about the presidential and the athletic director search, but no concrete information came out of that. Mary Nixon (chair) and Raymond Burse (vice chair) have been invited to present at the full Senate meeting next week.

XC Chair Mueller introduced Dr. Cherie Dawson, the new Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs. Dr. Dawson said she is looking forward to learning about and working with the XC the Faculty Senate.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

FEEDBACK ON INSTRUCTIONAL FLEXIBILITY - SCHULTZ/MUELLER

The Senate leaders met with the president and provost to discuss the perceived lack of flexibility for faculty and staff when illness strikes. Provost Bradley sent a campus-wide email stating faculty and staff have flexible instruction and work options when following COVID-19 protocols. Faculty may utilize their continuity of instruction plans (such as temporarily shifting to online instruction), and staff can utilize remote work options as agreed upon with their supervisor. Dr. Schultz added that leadership is receptive and appreciative that they are made aware of these concerns. Dr. Mueller asked Human Resources for data on how many requests for temporary relief had been made; those decisions are handled by units on an individual basis, so no information is available.

Comment: Regarding the policy in the provost's email, that policy was revoked last year. Everyone was told to return to campus. This is a reinstatement of the policy because it was revoked. And, it is directed to staff, who accrue sick and vacation time, which faculty do not.

Reply (Schultz): There was not a policy saying we are off campus. That was the reaction to the surge of the virus. The policy has always been to give the mode of instruction that has been advertised. That has been consistently clear for a year. Now, they are emphasizing instructions for faculty or staff who run into a real emergency and the steps to take for approval.

Question: Is there any guidance from the administration about increasing the ability of faculty or library staff members or others to be more pointed in reminding people to wear their masks?

Reply (Mueller): If you are asking is there any talk of empowering faculty to impose sanctions? Not to my knowledge, outside of in class - faculty can tell people to leave class.

SCIENCE REQUIREMENT FOR ADMISSIONS – MUELLER

A discussion took place regarding a faculty complaint on the lack of preparedness of freshmen in basic science. The state requires two years of high school science to graduate. Committee members felt that UofL would be at a competitive disadvantage for students to make admission requirements more

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demanding than the state minimum. It was posited the lower performance that concerned the complaining faculty member could be a temporary result of online learning during the pandemic that has lowered student preparedness, and more stringent admission requirements would not be prudent in light of the efforts to increase enrollment. A suggestion was that the professor consider a course requirement to get better prepared students for this particular discipline. Committee members decided not to pursue the matter further.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **ACADEMIC PROGRAMS - HARRINGTON**
 - This report was made last week.
- **COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES & CREDENTIALS - JEMIAN**
 - This committee had nothing to report.
- **PART-TIME FACULTY - FULLER**
 - This report was made last week.
- **REDBOOK & BYLAWS - DETMERING**
 - This report was made last week.
- **PLANNING & BUDGET - HARRIS**
 - This report was made last week.

OLD BUSINESS

As a point of information, Chair Schultz brought up the REDBOOK Revisions that started in 2018 or 2019 under Senator Enid Trucios-Haynes. It is now in the General Counsel's office for review. He expressed concern that it has not yet been forwarded to the Senate's REDBOOK Committee and such communication did not appear to be 'on the radar' of the University Counsel's office. He encouraged committee members to keep pushing for this right to review so the full Senate has a voice in these matters. The committee agreed it should hold firm that any proposed changes imposed by the University should go through the REDBOOK Committee and the Faculty Senate.

Question: How do changes that are made come to the Faculty Senate? How do we make that happen?

Reply (Schultz): The first question is coming to an agreement of what needs to and what doesn't need to. We are at that point right now. There seems to be a significant disagreement between the Senate and administration as to what should or should not. A good example is the Pass/No Pass policy changes. There are checks and balances in place. Open communication and collaboration with the administration helps this process. The Senate's chair and vice chair are on these committees and can advocate for Faculty Senate involvement. As a member of the Board of Trustees, if something comes to the board without faculty input, the Senate chair can make that known.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:44 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Henry