

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met on March 16, 2022 at 3 p.m. on the TEAMS platform, Vice Chair Eugene Mueller presiding.

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert Barker, Robert Detmering, Jose Fernandez, Roy Fuller, Karen Hadley, Candace Harrington, Patrick Harris, Eugene Mueller, Chin Ng, David Schultz, Sherri Wallace

ALSO ATTENDING

Ginger Brown, Michael Cunningham, Cherie Dawson, Lori Gonzalez, Alexa Meza, Jessie Murnock, Ian Norris

VOTING MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Rebecca Jemian, Enid Trucios-Haynes, Krista Wallace-Boaz

CALL TO ORDER

DISCUSSION: INTERIM PRESIDENT GONZALEZ

Dr. Gonzalez opened the discussion on the following topics.

Covid and Masks - At this time, masks are required in classrooms and clinical areas. Part of the rationale for that is students will be returning from spring break, and there may be an increase in infections. It was decided to err on the side of caution. Clinics are held to special precautions.

Searches

- **Vice President for Diversity & Equity** - After finalizing the last few checks and references, an announcement will be sent out early next week regarding the Vice President for Diversity and Equity.
- **Athletic Director** – This search is on hold until the new basketball coach has been announced later this week. Afterwards, an RFP for a search firm will go out and the search will begin.
- **Vice President for Health Affairs** – There is some uncertainty if this position has been filled, eliminated or restructured. The official position of Vice President of Health Affairs currently does not exist, and there is no plan to reinstitute it in the future. Dr. Toni Ganzel is the dean of the medical school. In 2020, she was also appointed as the vice president for academic medical affairs. As the healthcare system grows, it is important that it understands and respects the university's medical academic mission and serves the faculty and their patients.

State Budget – This is the first time in many years that funding for higher education is in the state budget. The state budget includes \$65M in funding for a new building for the Speed School, with matching funding to come from other sources. The Bucks for Brains initiative has been very good for UofL, and more funding is included in the state budget. Also included is funding for asset preservation for some of our buildings. It looks like there will be \$600K, spread over two years to create a Center for military-connected students and \$100K for the School of Dentistry for treating patients with opioid addiction. Funding will continue for cancer research and screening, spinal cord and head injury, rural health education and the Kentucky Autism Training Center. The CPE is working to increase base funding for the performance budget model.

UofL Budget – Revenues were high enough that, in spite of the enrollment shortfall this year, a bonus in August and salary increase in March were still possible. The units are using their contingency funds to

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pay for those raises. Dr. Bradley and CFO Dan Durbin are working with the units on using foundation funds to prevent a budget shortfall at the end of this fiscal year.

Enrollment – The enrollment dashboard shows the current numbers are ahead of this time last year, and in some cases the percentages are in double digits. One program that is successful is a tuition discount program that UofL offers in western Ohio. Students can come to UofL cheaper than some of their in state institutions. The colleges submitted their projections last week that will tell how their enrollment will grow or decline. Enrollment Management will look for trends and see what is happening in each unit. Finance and enrollment management are working to verify whether the numbers are close to the projections.

Salary Increase – Though the enrollment numbers are not definite, one of the administration’s top priorities is to test the possibility of a 2% raise in the coming fiscal year. The units have been asked to reduce their contingency funds from 3% to 1%, with the remaining 2% for a salary increase.

A&S Restructuring - Dr. Gonzalez shared a vision to revitalize the college in an attempt to get away from continuing yearly deficits. Programs close because students are not enrolling in them. If students do not enroll, there are no revenues for that program. She suggested creating majors that students would find appealing because of interdisciplinarity and synergy within them.

Question: This is a question about the process regarding COVID policies. I am on the COVID Advisory Committee and was told about the potential change in testing but did not hear anything about the change in the mask policy.

Reply (Murnock): Part of it was timing and trying to get with all the committees that previously had input. Changes were happening so quickly in the state and Jefferson County that the timeline was truncated. There was input from the constituent groups, just not all the committees, due to timing.

Question: Departments in the medical school have been approached to open programs internationally. With regards to enrollment initiatives, has any thought been put towards international students?

Reply (Gonzalez): The Department of Homeland Security just expanded the list of STEM majors that international students can come into the U.S. to study. That list was shared with the deans to see if there was capacity to create some of those majors. In the fall, we created the Demographic 25 Steering Committee. There are 60 people currently serving on the committee and subcommittees. There is a subcommittee on international students. It is hoped to turn Minardi Hall into a hub for students studying international business or foreign languages.

Question: How much of the change in Arts and Sciences is due to both the financial model and the previous change in the Cardinal Core, which is now allowing non-traditional departments to be offering General Education courses? The Gen Ed courses my department offers have taken a hit from this plethora of non-traditional departments now offering Gen Eds that used to be the bread and butter of Arts and Sciences.

Reply (Gonzalez): I cannot speak to what happened to Cardinal Core, but any change to the curriculum is faculty-driven. Budget issues are really enrollment issues. If students are not enrolling in unit courses, the budget will be impacted. Arts and Sciences has the greatest opportunity to make some of the most creative degrees on any college campus.

Question: I think this is an opportunity to get branding by some alumni. This is happening all across the country where universities are creating schools and putting alumni names on them and bringing in money. Is this an opportunity to think about it in that way too?

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Reply (Gonzalez): Yes. My dream is that we could seek an unnamed gift to call it the Jones School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, for example. Alumni who have done well in their field can serve as examples of what is possible with a liberal arts degree.

REPORT: STUDENT GOVERNMENT - MEZA

There was no report.

REPORT: STAFF SENATE - BROWN

The Staff Senate met on March 8th and heard a budget report from Dan Durbin and an update on the mask mandate from Senate Chair John Smith.

REPORT: AAUP – CUNNINGHAM

The AAUP is waiting for additional information on the Arts and Sciences restructuring, the presidential search and the salary adjustments.

REPORT: FACULTY SENATE CHAIR – SCHULTZ

Senate Chair Schultz reported on several topics.

- **Master Plan RFP Committee** - The committee is completing interviews and will select a firm that will develop the new master plan that will encompass the HSC, Shelby Hurst and Belknap campuses.
- **Human Resources Advisory Committee (HRAC)** – This committee met and heard a presentation on the progress of the Workday software implementation. Human Resources will also move its offices soon.
- **Commission on Diversity & Racial Equality (CODRE)** – Dr. Schultz thanked Dr. Patrick Harris for his service as the faculty representative on this committee. He is stepping down, and Dr. Guillermo Rougier will represent the Faculty Senate.
- **Demographic 25 Committee** – This committee met last week. Dr. Schultz chairs the subcommittee on Faculty Efforts on Retention and Graduation, and he encouraged committee members to submit suggestions on ways to improve those efforts.
- **Presidential Search** – Dr. Schutz is on an ad hoc committee appointed by the Board of Trustees to review the search firm RFP submissions. There were twelve responses, and the committee will select those to come to campus and make a presentation to the board.
- **Athletic Director Search** – The search is on hold at the present, but the planning committee is continuing to meet. In April, the committee will hold listening sessions with various constituent groups to develop a list of attributes for the position. That list will be sent to the president in mid-May.

DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS – MUELLER

- **Transition to In-Person Senate and Executive Committee Meetings** – In order to promote robust discussion and participation, plans are underway to make the meetings easier for in person attendance on both Belknap and HSC Campuses. Next week, a test will take place using the current technology to connect both campuses. Room 201 in the Miller Information Technology Center (MITC) and Room 205 in the Instructional Building on HSC are the locations for the trial run. Committee Chair Mueller urged the committee members to attend next week's meeting at either one of the locations.

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REPORTS: STANDING COMMITTEES

- **Academic Programs Committee (APC) – Harrington**
 - This committee met last week and reviewed the proposed Six Sigma Black Belt graduate certificate from the Speed School. The proposal was returned for revisions.
- **Committee on Committees & Credentials (CCC) – Jemian**
 - This committee continues to prepare for the May elections.
- **Part-time Faculty Committee (PTF) – Fuller**
 - This committee met last week and was joined by Dr. Cherie Dawson, the new Faculty Affairs Officer.
- **Planning & Budget Committee (P&B) – Harris**
 - This committee is holding a training session at its next meeting for committee members who joined in the fall.
- **REDBOOK & Bylaws Committee (RB) – Detmering**
 - This committee will present the revised Medical School bylaws and personnel document and the revised Kent School bylaws for a first reading at the April meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Advisory Authority of the Faculty Senate** – Last fall, the REDBOOK Committee developed an opinion regarding the advisory authority of the Faculty Senate, but has not received any feedback. Chair Schultz reported that he sent that document to Dr. Gonzalez (as provost). Dr. Schultz would like to discuss it with Interim Provost Bradley, as well as the REDBOOK Committee or its chair.
- **Conflict of Interest Policy** – Senate Chair Schultz sent a revised Conflict of Interest in Employment policy to the REDBOOK Committee. The revisions will be discussed at the April Faculty Senate meeting.
- **Pass/No Fail Grading Policy** – This discussion will be held at next week’s meeting. Dr. Gail DePuy, the Interim Senior Vice Provost provided the information that had been requested earlier this semester.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Henry
Senate Coordinator