

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met on March 23, 2022 at 3 p.m. in MITC 201, HB 205 and 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, Patrick Harris, Eugene Mueller, Chin Ng, David Schultz, Enid Trucios-Haynes, Sherri Wallace

ALSO ATTENDING

Gerry Bradley, Ginger Brown, Michael Cunningham, Cherie Dawson, Alexa Meza

VOTING MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Rebecca Jemian, Krista Wallace-Boaz

CALL TO ORDER

ACTION ITEM: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - MUELLER

The February minutes were approved as distributed.

DISCUSSION WITH PROVOST GERRY BRADLEY

Dr. Bradley discussed several topics with the committee.

Arts & Sciences Restructuring – There are many concerns over the process and motivation behind the efforts to make changes in the unit. There is also excitement. Dr. Bradley reiterated that the committee is made up of Arts and Sciences faculty and staff who will discuss this and other issues the college is facing. Where and how change will come from the faculty and staff that are on the committee. The goal is to grow and improve the college and offer more interdisciplinary programs to appeal to students. Dr. Bradley said he has a very open mind and will regularly update the college, the A&S Faculty Assembly and this committee. A [web site](#) is maintained for submitting suggestions and with updated information.

Mask Mandate – Masks are still required in the classrooms, and clinical areas make their decisions based on best practices for their discipline. There are no plans to change the mask mandate for the next two weeks until students return from spring break. There is a bill going through the state legislature that mandates no masks in any setting. We will know more about that at the end of April.

Enrollment – Enrollment projections fell short for the year that is closing out in June. In the fall, enrollment was down about 197 students and that was even though it was budgeted for about 290 down. For the current spring semester, it is down about 137 students. Undergraduate enrollment held fairly solid, but in the medical and dental schools, the numbers were down. Some medical students took a leave of absence and were projected to return but did not. Next year, medical school enrollment is projected to be down even more. Looking towards fall 2022, there are encouraging signs. Applications are up by 10%, and deposits are up by 5.2%, which is a good indicator. Aggressive measures are being taken in the new branding campaign and in marketing in Ohio. Students from eight of the 44 counties in Ohio qualify for in-state tuition at UofL, which is cheaper than they can get in their home state. There are nine different groups at UofL working on ways to head off the coming enrollment cliff.

Dean Searches

- **Law School** - The search for the Law School dean has been successful, and an announcement will be made soon.
- **Kent School** – Dean David Jenkins has accepted a similar post at the Ohio State University. It is a great opportunity for him and we wish him well. Discussion will be held with the faculty to develop a transition plan.

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- **Other Dean Searches** – A search will begin in the fall for the A&S dean. The search for the College of Education dean will potentially begin soon, as well. Though there will be three interim deans, we will need to prioritize as usually two searches is the most that can be conducted simultaneously.

Question: Have you assessed the extent to which the A&S lost credit hours are due to the fact that the budget model incentivizes other colleges to offer courses that had traditionally been A&S courses?

Reply: Looking at the undergraduate credit hours taught between 2016/2017 through 2020/2021 - in 2016/2017 the College of Arts and Sciences taught 258,543 student credit hours. In 17/18, it went down to 249,000 thousand credit hours in 2018/2019 went down to 242,000 credit hours and 2019/2020 down to 238,200 hours, and in 2020/2021 it was down to 237,000. Next year, the projection is it will be less. We are seeing a five year decrease in credit hours of about 30,000 credit hours. If you look at the all the other colleges combined, they only grew by 6 credit hours. Dr. Bradley requested the particular courses that are impinging on Arts & Sciences so he may review them.

Question: Is there a plan to survey current and prospective students so that we could find out what they want rather than just restructure the departments and hope that they offer what students want?

Reply: There are models available to see what is working in other institutions. It depends on how the committee decides to move forward.

Question: Facilitating interdisciplinary collaboration and courses could be done in other ways than in restructuring the school.

Reply: Yes, this has been a topic of discussion by the faculty members on the A&S committee.

REPORT: STUDENT GOVERNMENT - OKORIE

SGA President, Ugonna Okorie gave the SGA update.

- **Cardinal Course Materials Program** – Efforts continue in gathering materials to loan to students. Ms. Meza is currently working to reach out to faculty who teach courses requiring additional course materials like clickers and calculators to encourage further facilitation of these resources to students. Reminder emails will be sent out before the end of this semester and at the beginning of the fall semester.
- **Schedule of Classes Change** – The system that provides students with the schedule of classes was changed this semester. There is talk of it changing again. Not much information is known at this time, but when more is available Ms. Meza will bring it to this committee.
- **Ramadan** – Ramadan is observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection and celebration. As it approaches, the SGA highly encourages all faculty to give grace and compassion to our Muslim students, fellow faculty and staff members. Ramadan begins on April 2nd and ends May 2nd.

REPORT: STAFF SENATE - BROWN

There was nothing to add to the report made last week.

REPORT: AAUP – CUNNINGHAM

The AAUP continues to be concerned about several issues. Among the concerns is the idea of creating the Arts & Sciences Restructuring Committee. The AAUP is also waiting on additional information regarding the processes involved in the presidential, provost and current dean searches.

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REPORT: FACULTY SENATE CHAIR – SCHULTZ

Senate Chair Schultz reported on the following topics.

Master Plan – Three companies were selected from the RFP submissions to develop a plan for all UofL campuses, and each made a presentation to the committee. The presentations will be reviewed and ranked before negotiations begin with the top choice in the coming weeks.

President Search – The RFP Review Committee met and ranked the twelve submitted proposals. Invitations were extended to five companies for on campus in person meetings. These will take place at the end of this month.

Strategic Plan Committee - The current strategic plan is a three year plan and is now running out. A new plan is being developed. As it moves forward, updates will be made to this committee.

Question: In the presidential search, was there discussion on whether this will be private or public?

Reply: That has not been part of any discussion at this point. The Board of Trustees will rely on the search firm to decide how best to move forward. That is a good question when the in person interviews are scheduled.

Question: As the current strategic plan is expiring, is there any report on what was learned or accomplished?

Reply: Yes, an email was sent out recently that listed what was achieved compared to what was planned.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

CHANGE OF PASS/FAIL TO PASS/NO PASS – MUELLER

Committee Chair Mueller reported that he had not received clarification on the two points raised last fall, though the numbers of students taking this option were submitted to him. No changes have been made to the policy yet. There will be no change to which students and classes that are currently eligible for pass/fail. The numbers indicate that less than 1% of students choose this option. After a prolonged discussion on the approval process, a motion was passed that the Executive Committee recommends that the current university policy on Pass/Fail be maintained.

REPORTS: STANDING COMMITTEES

- **Academic Programs Committee (APC)** – Harrington
 - This committee had nothing new to report.
- **Committee on Committee & Credentials (CCC)** – Jemian
 - Work continues on the ballot for the May 4th election.
- **Part-time Faculty Committee (PTF)** – Fuller
 - This committee had nothing new to report.
- **Planning & Budget Committee (P&B)** – Harris
 - This committee had a training session at its meeting yesterday. It used the proposal for a Six Sigma Black Belt graduate certificate from the Speed School as its training document.
- **The REDBOOK & Bylaws Committee (RB)** – Detmering
 - This committee plans to hold a first reading for the revised Kent School bylaws and Medical School unit documents at the April meeting.

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OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Demographic 25 Committee** - The subcommittees of the Demographic 25 Committee have met, and Executive Committee Chair Mueller is on the Academic Programs and Quality subcommittee. The *quality* refers to the students more than programs for admissions. The committee is seeking recommendations for new members.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A discussion took place of the room's acoustics for future meetings. Technical problems and sound were issues for both rooms. The microphone in MITC did not pick up enough for TEAMS or the room on HSC to hear clearly. New technical equipment will be ordered to improve this meeting set up.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Henry
Senate Coordinator