

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met on June 22, 2022 at 3 p.m. in MITC 201 and online on the TEAMS platform, Vice Chair Eugene Mueller presiding.

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert Barker, Jose Fernandez, Roy Fuller, Candace Harrington, Patrick Harris, Eugene Mueller, David Schultz, Enid Trucios-Haynes, Sherri Wallace, Krista Wallace-Boaz

ALSO ATTENDING

Cherie Dawson, Mike Materna, Justin Ruffin

VOTING MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Karen Hadley, Rebecca Jemian, Chin Ng

CALL TO ORDER

ACTION ITEM: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - MUELLER

The minutes of the April and May meetings were approved.

REPORT: STUDENT GOVERNMENT

No report was made.

REPORT: STAFF SENATE – MATERNA

The Staff Senate met on June 14th and held its annual election of officers. Mr. Josh Heird, the new Athletic Director spoke to the Senate. Senate Chair Smith recognized several senators for participating in various activities across the university.

REPORT: FACULTY SENATE CHAIR – SCHULTZ

Chair Schultz reported on several topics.

Strategic Plan – After receiving broad feedback from the listening tours, changes were made to the plan. The major change is the addition of a fourth pillar titled *Discover*. Interim President Gonzalez will present the changes to the Board of Trustees for its input and approval. Afterwards, there will be another opportunity for feedback.

Demographic 25 Committee – This committee continues to meet regularly. The subcommittee reports are due. From those reports, the larger committee will look for common themes to use to develop the final plan.

Presidential Search – The last session of the listening tour was held last night with state legislators. It was a good session with a lot of feedback.

DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS – MUELLER

- Blackboard access for Athletic Advisors – Wallace-Boaz/Riffin
 - Dr. Krista Wallace-Boaz, the university's Faculty Athletic Representative to the NCAA and Mr. Justin Riffin, the Assistant Athletic Director for Academic Services attended for the discussion. The discussion focused on the read-only feature on Blackboard and the possibility of authorizing access for student-athlete advisors. There are several access features in Blackboard that can be turned on and off. These functions are read-only, write, remove, and manage. Access to the read-only feature on Blackboard will enable

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advisors to keep an up-to-the-minute watch over the student-athlete's course progress and grade information. The read-only feature is very helpful when the student-athletes are traveling and reduces security risks for any possible FERPA violations. It supports academic integrity, is very transparent, and shows who is viewing the account. This could serve as a pilot program for other advising areas. This has been a topic of discussion in the Athletic Association's [Committee on Academic Performance](#) (CAP) meetings for the past few years. The subject has been discussed with Interim President Gonzalez and Interim Provost Bradley, as well as Dr. Gail Depuy. It is now before this committee because the faculty have to be comfortable with this access. Other schools in the ACC do this on the various platforms they use and have reported success.

- Question: The read-only feature will not grant access to Grade Center, correct?
 - Reply (Wallace-Boaz): I looked into this, and it said access included all folders and files but did not mention Grade Center specifically.
- Question: How will advisors benefit from this access?
 - Reply (Ruffin): This will give advisors an instant snapshot of the students' grades. It will help with monitoring student work and not let anyone fall through the cracks.
- Question: How is this different than the feedback faculty have to give on student-athletes? I think this would be great for all students.
 - Reply (Ruffin): The feedback we get from that is very superficial and doesn't really tell us anything. We get comments like "Student is struggling". This will show what assignments have been turned in or not and give a better picture of why the student is struggling.
- Question: How do we know if a faculty member has turned on this feature?
 - Reply (Ruffin): This is done through the IT department, not by the faculty.
- Question: How will this help if you can't see the grade book and see what assignments are missing?
 - Reply (Wallace-Boaz): With the features of read-only, write, remove and manage, I believe the read-only will permit seeing the grade, but I have to confirm the grade center being accessible.
- Question: How will you be able to see that a student did not hand in assignment X without going into that student's account?
 - Reply (Harris): IT would have to create a fifth feature to allow advisors to access student-athlete information.
- Question: I would not support anyone having access to all the grades of all the students in a course. I see this as a privacy issue. Would the students need to sign a release form?
 - Reply (Wallace-Boaz): Access would only be given to the student-athlete's record.
- Question: This sounds like a service that will benefit the student-athletes only. Will this create an issue with the NCAA?
 - Reply (Ruffin): As we noted earlier, there are four schools in the ACC doing this, and I am sure they have vetted it with the NCAA.
 - Reply (Wallace-Boaz): We discussed this with ACC officials, and it has never been an issue.

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- Question: Is the plan to give advisors access to all student-athletes, or does one advisor have one student? How does it work?
 - Reply (Riffin): That may be the tricky part once we get ready to do it. One advisor has a cohort of student-athletes.
- Question: Are advisors defined by sport or discipline? That may make it easier to figure out who gets access to whom.
 - Reply (Riffin): Sport.

Dr. Wallace-Boaz said that the topic was discussed with the provost, but the decision is the up to the faculty. If the Executive Committee agrees, she requests the recommendation be presented to the full Faculty Senate. If the full Senate approves the recommendation, it should be sent to the provost. This committee felt that some of the unanswered issues needed to be resolved before this is brought to the full Senate. Dr. Wallace-Boaz said she would get the answers and streamline the process before it moves ahead.

- Course Evaluations – Mueller
When the process for immediate access to grades happened, the switch to the end of reading day occurred. But that is not carved in stone and can be changed. What does this committee want to do with this issue? It could be something for an ad hoc committee to look into in the fall. A discussion took place on the timing of posting grades, the availability of course evaluations, and similar topics. Committee Chair Mueller said he will contact Bob Goldstein to get more information.

REPORTS: STANDING COMMITTEES

- Academic Programs Committee (APC) – Harrington
 - This committee met earlier in June and discussed the proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Public Health Training. Revisions to the proposal were requested, and the committee is waiting for those revisions.
- Committee on Committee & Credentials (CCC) – Jemian
 - This committee had no report. Chair Mueller thanked Senator Jemian for her smooth running of the election.
- Part-time Faculty Committee (PTF) – Fuller
 - There was no report.
- Planning & Budget Committee (P&B) – Harris
 - This committee has received a proposal for an Undergraduate Certificate in Franchise Management from the College of Business. The proposal lacked sufficient information and was returned to the proposers. When the information is received, the proposal will return to the committee for review.
- The REDBOOK & Bylaws Committee (RB) – Detmering
 - This committee is reviewing the School of Nursing's bylaws and personnel documents.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Senator Harris stated that service work does not appear to be figured into all (or perhaps *any*) of the faculty evaluations that are done at the university. A discussion of service in evaluations and promotion and tenure took place.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

There are no meetings in July.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Henry
Senate Coordinator