

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

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met on March 22, 2023 at 3 p.m. in MITC 201 and on the TEAMS platform, Vice Chair Robert Detmering presiding.

### **VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT**

Robert Cohn, Robert Detmering, Jose Fernandez, Roy Fuller, Kathy Gosser, Karen Hadley, Candace Harrington, Patrick Harris, Eugene Mueller, David Schultz, Sherri Wallace

### **ALSO ATTENDING**

Michael Cunningham, Becky Patterson, Bryson Sebastian, Bronwyn Williams

### **VOTING MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Chin Ng, Enid Trucios-Haynes

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

There were some last minute edits to the February 15 minutes and they were tabled for approval at a later meeting. The [February 22<sup>nd</sup>](#) minutes were approved as distributed.

### **REPORT: STUDENT GOVERNMENT - SEBASTIAN**

The SGA held its election last week and is preparing for the transition to the new leadership team.

### **REPORT: STAFF SENATE - PATTERSON**

The Staff Senate will meet on April 11<sup>th</sup> on the Teams platform.

### **REPORT: AAUP – CUNNINGHAM**

The AAUP awaits the upcoming discussion on The REDBOOK amendments.

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

Chair Mueller spoke with Ms. Marian Vasser, the Executive Director of Diversity & Equity about training for the proposed ad hoc DEI committee. He also reported that upon further investigation of the recent trans chalking incidents he gained a better understanding of the details and how the situation unfolded.

### **DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS – DETMERING**

#### **University Writing Center – Williams**

In efforts to inform the Executive Committee on various aspects of the student experience and student success, Committee Chair Detmering invited Professor Bronwyn Williams to report on the [University Writing Center](#), which is funded solely through the English Department. Professor Williams reported on the various services the Center offers, tutoring writing being the Center's main activity. Students engaging in that tutoring are from first years through doctoral students in every discipline in every college in the university. Each year, the Center has about 5500 appointments and about one third of those are graduate students. There is an office on HSC in the Kornhauser Library and an online version of the Center, as well. The assistant director, a Ph.D. student spends half her time in the HSC office. In an effort to create a culture of writing at UofL, the Center hosts various writing groups and community events. Students in the English master's program work their first GTA year in the Center and their second year teaching composition. Those students provide a huge amount of teaching that the Center's \$11K operating budget could not begin to cover otherwise. When Professor Williams retires in two

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months, Professor Tim Johnson will become the Writing Center Director. The staff is participating in the Delphi Center's workshops on ChatGPT/AI.

**Question:** You said the assistant director spends half her time on HSC. Is that funded by any unit on HSC?

**Reply:** Eight hours a week are spent at Kornhauser Library. Initially, funds from HSC supported it, then, for unknown reasons that support stopped. It is now funded solely through the Graduate School.

**Question:** What do you think about ChatGPT?

**Reply:** It is interesting to see the reactions. There have been panics regarding writing since Socrates. In the last ten years it was thought that Wikipedia was going to end everything. Clearly, this is different but as a predictive word algorithm, it is impressive. The most vulnerable writing assignments will be content assessments. As faculty, we need to know students are going to use it and they need to know what it can and cannot do. Assignments that have developmental stages and connect to distinctive classroom material may depend less on ChatGPT. Recently, a student said ChatGPT gave him a much more nuanced and robust set of search terms. If more faculty could talk within their own disciplines about how they do their own writing and what their own writing practices are, students will listen because they are trying to figure it out. If faculty give examples of how the use of ChatGPT is working in their own scholarly writing and what is not, can be helpful to their students. Dr. Williams thinks trying to police ChatGPT with technology is a losing battle.

### Trans Right Statement Follow-Up – Detmering

Following up on last week's discussion regarding the chalking incident involving trans students, Committee Chair Detmering revised the original statement from the Commission on the Status of Women (COSW). In revising that statement, the particular details of the incidents were removed since they were not clear and the more general statement in support of trans rights is attached. The specific point of publicly opposing legislation was revised by omitting 'publicly' as that may have unintended political repercussions. A discussion took place on to whom the letter is addressed, the removal of the phrase 'opposing legislation' and steps the committee would like to see the administration support. After various suggestions were made, the committee felt it needed more time to review a final statement before endorsing it. Committee Chair Detmering will email a revised statement to the committee.

### Proposed REDBOOK Amendments– Cohn

The REDBOOK Committee was tasked to consider if The REDBOOK needed revisions related to presidential and decanal searches. The committee reviewed, discussed and revised the motions and agreed to forward them. Senate Chair Mueller then said the issue was not to consider the original motion but to decide if The REDBOOK should be amended at all. REDBOOK Committee member, Ms. Ariana Levinson confirmed that the REDBOOK Committee did indeed support changes to The REDBOOK regarding presidential and decanal searches and, as Senator Cohn stated, discussed the proposed changes, reviewed them, revised them and voted to accept them as revised. Senate Chair Mueller, as a board trustee suggested a change that may be more amenable to the full Board is to have one of the other faculty members on the search committee be appointed from the Presidential Search Faculty Consultation Committee (PSFCC) and that the PSFCC meet with all the finalists. Senator Schultz said he thought this most recent search had more faculty participation than the last search though the PSFCC's participation was the same. He thinks it would be a step in the right direction if one person from the PSFCC was able to be on the full search committee and possibly to be in the finalists' interviews. Senate

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Chair Mueller thought it may be possible to get both. As Senate Chair, Dr. Mueller requested that The REDBOOK Committee revisit the motions.

**Executive Session – Pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(f) -Detmering**

A motion was made and seconded for the committee to go into Executive Session.

**REPORTS: STANDING COMMITTEES - NO REPORTS WERE MADE THIS WEEK.**

- Academic Programs Committee (APC) - Harrington
- Committee on Committee & Credentials (CCC) - Gosser
- Part-time Faculty Committee (PTF) - Fuller
- Planning & Budget Committee (P&B) - Harris
- The REDBOOK & Bylaws Committee (RB) - Cohn

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gretchen Henry  
Senate Coordinator