

**FACULTY SENATE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
January 25, 2023**

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met on January 25, 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, Kathleen Gosser, Karen Hadley, Candace Harrington, Patrick Harris, Eugene Mueller, Chin Ng, Sherri Wallace

ALSO ATTENDING

Beth Boehm, Michael Cunningham, Cherie Dawson-Edwards, Becky Patterson, Bryson Sebastian

VOTING MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Enid Trucios-Haynes

CALL TO ORDER

ACTION ITEM: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - DETMERING

The minutes from November 16, 2022 and December 14, 2022 were approved.

REPORT: STUDENT GOVERNMENT - SEBASTIAN

Mr. Sebastian reported on the following topics.

- **Compassionate Withdrawal** – The work on revising the Compassionate Withdrawal policy has been moved to the New Student Office and will be coordinated by the Student Advocate, Samantha Mackenzie.
- **Follett Pilot Program Update** – Mr. Sebastian recently attended a meeting with Dr. Beth Willey and the university bookstore partner, Follett. The discussion centered on a pilot program called Follett Access, that may begin this summer. The program would automatically enroll students into the program who register for fully online core systems courses. Course charges would go directly to the Bursar's Office and students would need to pay it off before registering for the following semester. No contract agreement has been signed. There is no strong student feedback either way on this proposal. The University of Cincinnati uses this program so Dan Durbin is reaching out to them to see how it works and how much students can actually save. Dr. Willey and the CFO's Office were not very enthusiastic about the program.
 - **Question:** How much can students save?
 - **Reply:** Not a large amount. It looked to be about 15%.
 - **Question:** How does the University feel about holding that debt until the student pays it off?
 - **Reply:** Dan Durbin was not real excited about it.
 - **Comment:** So, if a student defaults, it becomes the university's debt.
 - **Reply:** Correct.

Cyber Security – UofL is in the running to receive funding for a cyber security unit. The federal funds were earmarked for Kentucky, though not specifically for the University of Louisville. The student government is going to Frankfurt next month to lobby for it to come here. Since UofL is the only Kentucky institution that partners with three government agencies, FBI, the National Security Agency and the Department of Defense, may help in garnering the funds.

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[House Bill 136](#) - House Bill 136 is a proposal in the General Assembly this year that seeks to increase the number of seats on UofL Board of Trustees by adding a second faculty seat and two new student seats, one being a graduate student. It also proposes to prohibit the Council on Postsecondary Education from raising tuition for a postsecondary education institution more than 5% a year for resident students and 7% a year for nonresident students; provide a 4-year tuition freeze for an enrolled resident students; require an institution to notify a student before expiration of a tuition freeze; require any increase to tuition or fees to be approved before March 1 of the proceeding school year. The SGA voted in support of HB 136.

DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS – DETMERING

- **Graduate School** – Graduate School Dean, Dr. Boehm discussed some topics/questions that were sent to her prior to this meeting.
 - **Graduate Admissions** – Addressing a comment about the timing of processing applications and their posting, Dr. Boehm reported that last year the office had four vacancies. Usually, the Graduate School admissions office has twelve full-time staff. Compared to other institutions, UofL is by far the lowest-staffed, yet provides many of the same services. Many times, applications are not complete and must wait to be posted until missing pieces are received. Incomplete applications are not posted. Hiring in the fall semester was prohibited due to the Workday implementation. The plan to improve the process is to use the [Slate](#) platform that is used in Undergraduate Admissions. When it is fully up and running it will be a robust communications tool for the Graduate School. In terms of enrollment management, this is one of the chief goals of the Graduate School this year.
 - **Stipends for PhD Students** –After conducting a stipend study, Dr. Boehm found that the Graduate School was off \$2.1M compared to the national average. The Provost committed to \$600K a year for four years to help offset this gap. This began in fall 2022 and every Ph.D. stipend received \$1000 to its line. Further, years ago it was decided to send the stipends directly to the units to distribute instead of coming from the Graduate School. The Graduate School currently distributes fellowships, not stipends. So, Dean Boehm is working to have the stipends return to and be distributed by the Graduate School.

A lengthy discussion took pace on the various scenarios concerning research funding and graduate students.

- **Professional Development and Mentoring Efforts** – There is a professional development plan for graduate students with various cocurricular activities. We sponsored an NIH resilience series, a GTA Academy to help provide people with teaching skills. There is a Mentoring Academy with graduates mentoring undergraduates.
 - **Question:** What is the Graduate School’s graduation rate?
 - **Reply:** I believe it is 67% of our doctoral students graduate in four to five years. The national average is 50%.

REPORT: STAFF SENATE - PATTERSON

The Staff Senate’s next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, February 14th on the Teams platform.

REPORT: AAUP – CUNNINGHAM

There was no report

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REPORT: FACULTY SENATE CHAIR – MUELLER

Dr. Mueller reported on several topics.

- **February Meeting** - The new president, Dr. Kim Schatzel will attend the Faculty Senate meeting on February 1st.
- **ChatGPT** – Discussions have started between the Senate officers and the Provost. Further discussion will take place with this committee and perhaps the full senate meeting in March.
- **Speed Outdoors** – The walkway between the Speed Museum and the parking garage will be paved and the outdoor area will be turned into a sculpture park.
- **Microcredentialing Committee** – A volunteer is needed for this new committee.

DISCUSSION ITEMS - DETMERING

- **Resolution of Appreciation for President and Provost – Mueller**

Chair Mueller read the proclamation of appreciation for Dr. Gonzalez’s leadership as Interim President. The resolution will be printed and given to Dr. Gonzalez. A motion was made to print out the resolution and give to Dr. Gonzalez. The motion was unanimously approved.

- **Follow-Up on United Campus Workers – Detmering**

Following up from a discussion in December, Committee Chair sought any further comments from that meeting. Questions were raised about the type of participation the UCW is interested in and how to go about facilitating their request. It was mentioned that perhaps the UCW could participate much like the AAUP that has a non-voting member attend meetings and offer reports. The committee was divided in opinion about inviting them to attend a Faculty Senate meeting. This will be discussed further.

- **Upcoming XC meetings – Detmering**

As a reminder, Committee Chair Detmering will be absent at next month’s Executive Committee meetings due to jury duty service. Senate Chair Mueller will run the meetings, as needed.

REPORTS: STANDING COMMITTEES

- **Academic Programs Committee (APC) – Harrington**
 - This committee is reviewing a proposal for an Undergraduate Certificate in Sales. If it is approved by the Planning & Budget Committee, it will go before the full Senate next week.
- **Committee on Committee & Credentials (CCC) – Gosser**
 - Units have been notified of the Senate terms are expiring this year. The election will be held at the May 3rd meeting.
- **Part-time Faculty Committee (PTF) – Fuller**
 - Brian Buford from the Employee Success Center will be invited to the committee’s next meeting.
- **Planning & Budget Committee (P&B) – Harris**
 - This committee also reviewed the proposal for the Undergraduate Certificate in Sales. After some changes, the proposal was approved by the committee and sent back to

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Academic Programs Committee. This committee also approved a proposal for a Center on Positive Leadership. It is ready to go to the February Senate meeting.

- **The REDBOOK & Bylaws Committee (RB) – Cohn**
 - This committee is reviewing the School of Nursing personnel document. There are several issues with complex changes that will be discussed with the School next month. The School of Medicine’s unit documents had several minor changes.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Chair Detmering told the committee that his term is ending this year and he will not seek reelection due to an increase in his work duties. That will leave a vacancy in the election pipeline for vice chair. A brief discussion took place on the election.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Henry
Senate Coordinator