

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met on August 21, 2024 at 3 p.m. in MITC 201 and on the Teams platform, Vice Chair Sherri Wallace presiding.

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Amy Acklin, Roy Fuller, Lynette Galloway, Kathleen Gosser, Karen Hadley, Meg Hancock, Patrick Harris, Eugene Mueller, Sherri Wallace, Andrew Winters

ALSO ATTENDING

Michael Cunningham, Cherie Dawson-Edwards, Gail DePuy, Cindi Logsdon, Dale McIntosh, Kevyn Merten, Becky Patterson, Macy Waddle

VOTING MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Jose Fernandez, Enid Trucios-Haynes

CALL TO ORDER

ACTION ITEM: Approval of the June Minutes – Wallace

The minutes of the June meeting were approved.

REPORT: Student Government – Waddle

Ms. Waddle was introduced as the new SGA representative to the Faculty Senate. The newly-elected SGA leadership has been preparing over the summer for the upcoming fall semester.

REPORT: Staff Senate – Patterson

The Staff Senate does not meet in August. The next meeting is scheduled for September 10th.

REPORT: AAUP - Cunningham

AAUP has met and discussed the Faculty Compensation Study and the next steps. It is developing a communication along those points.

REPORT: Faculty Senate Chair - Mueller

Senate Chair Mueller reported on the following topics.

Faculty Compensation Study – Dr. Mueller is advocating for time in rank to be included in a second phase of the Faculty Compensation Study but is being met with resistance. Discussion took place on the use of rank, median salary ranges and comparisons to benchmark institutions.

Faculty Senate Budget – Dr. Mueller has requested and received \$1000.00 for the current operating budget.

Merit Raises – He continues to advocate for merit raises to be reinstated.

Custodial Services – Dr. Mueller has received reports of a lack of cleaning services across campus. The committee thought the issue was serious enough to send the custodial service schedule to the full Faculty Senate membership.

University-Wide Committees – Faculty representatives are needed on the Human Resources Advisory Committee (HRAC) and the Benefits Design Work Group.

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DISCUSSION & GUEST REPORTS - Wallace

Research Strategic Plan - Logsdon/Merten

Dr. Cindi Logsdon and Dr. Kevyn Merten were in attendance to garner feedback for the draft Research Strategic Plan that had been distributed before this meeting. Feedback included the perception that research will focus less on individual/department/unit-based research and more on centers and institutes, which coincides with the move of the National Institutes of Health and other funding sources over the past ten years. This may lead to more university-wide collaboration and creation of centers and institutes across disciplines to apply for funding; that this is a high level document that encourages interdisciplinary collaboration; if it was the university's intention to focus on centers and institutes, it should be stated in the document; nowhere in the document is PI-driven research mentioned; the document speaks to implementation of an incubator in year one, with the various pockets of entrepreneurship throughout the university, how will these be folded into the plan. Dr. Logsdon replied that individual research will always be value at UofL and will always have support resources for those investigators. It was suggested that those most impacted by this new document be given a forum to discuss and understand the implications to their own research to allow more universal buy-in.

Program GPA Proposal - DePuy

Senior Vice Provost Dr. Gail Depuy reported that an issue exists in the undergraduate course catalog that states for a student to graduate a minimum cumulative GPA and a minimum program GPA must be attained, but units and even departments calculate program GPAs differently. The main concern is not the inconsistency between units, but our system cannot automatically calculate program GPAs, and this is a problem. Students get their program GPA right before graduation when it is too late to do anything. Advisors cannot take the time to calculate program GPAs by hand every semester. Dr. DePuy offered the option of removing the program GPA as a graduation requirement and only using the cumulative GPA. Units could still require a more stringent cumulative GPA than the university requirement. For example, the University requires a cumulative GPA of 2.0 to graduate, but a unit can require a cumulative GPA of 2.5. And some units already do that. Her purpose today was to get the committee's endorsement of removing the university's graduation requirement of a program GPA while allowing units to revise their particular graduation GPA requirements. Ms. Waddle, the SGA representative said she felt students would be in support of this as advising is also currently being restructured. A discussion took place and suggestions were made before the proposal is presented to the full Senate.

Suggestions for Co-Chair for the Faculty Grievance Committee – Wallace

Dr. Melissa Laning, co-chair of the Faculty Grievance Committee is stepping down and a replacement is sought to fill that position. A discussion took place on possible candidates. A slate of names was discussed and it was decided to put forth Angel Clemons (Libraries), Jason Jagers (CEHD) and Adrian Lauf (Speed).

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Academic Programs – Galloway**
 - This committee will present a program proposal for a PhD in Translational Bioengineering from the Speed School. Another liaison will be appointed from APC to the Executive Committee.

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- **Committee on Committees & Credentials – Gosser**
 - If Bonnie Fonseca-Greber is willing to serve as chair of the *ad hoc* DEI committee, she can continue in that role without formal reelection.
- **Part-time Faculty – Fuller**
 - This committee had not met and had no report. It is working on benefits for part-time lecturers.
- **Planning & Budget – Harris**
 - This committee reviewed a proposal for a center and is awaiting requested revisions. The committee also has received a proposal for a graduate certificate.
- **REDBOOK & Bylaws – Winters**
 - This committee has not met and had no report.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Senator McIntosh mentioned that he has noticed that with larger class sections and more students in the halls, it takes more time to get out of a classroom and to the next class. He suggested exploring the possibility of adding an extra five minutes between 50 minute classes to alleviate this issue. Committee Chair Wallace will look into contacting the appropriate office about this.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Henry
University Senates