

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Report for December 2020

Eugene Mueller

Faculty Senate Vice Chair, Chair of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee had one regular meeting, and minutes will be duly available once approved at a future meeting.

December 16

Vice Provost Robert Goldstein made a presentation regarding the process and first report to the Committee on Postsecondary Education (CPE) concerning its mandated examination of current and potential academic programs in light of market data. CPE contracted Gray & Associates to provide that data and lead a two-day guided analysis, which occurred with U of L virtually over Fall Break after postponement from a planned on-site review session in May. The first report to CPE proposed extending the process through the spring semester of 2021, during which feedback will be gathered from academic units on the preliminary recommendations made by the working group at the end of the two day October session.

Representing the Commission on the Status of Women (COSW), Senator Olfa Nasraoui presented a draft resolution calling for modification of annual merit review guidelines and procedures in light of pandemic-created burdens on faculty as a whole and women in particular. The Executive Committee raised several issues about the resolution as it stood, the proposed actions of which seemed to violate Redbook and very likely unit personnel policies, too. It is my understanding that COSW continues to work on this issue. The unanimous endorsement by the Executive Committee of the sentiment of the COSW resolution was transmitted to Provost Boehm.

The U of L conflict of interest policy is under revision, and a version incorporating concerns previously raised by the Executive Committee was received. With those changes, the Executive Committee voted unanimously to recommend it for approval by the full Faculty Senate.

The Executive Committee voted unanimously to create an *ad hoc* Antiracism Committee and established the general outlines of the charge and membership for elaboration by the Chair of the Faculty Senate. The outlined membership includes the Chair and Vice Chair of the Faculty Senate and a representative from every academic unit; non-senators can serve as unit representatives, but senators must constitute a majority of the members. The outline of the committee charge includes consultation and liaison efforts with other campus groups doing work on the Antiracism Agenda and related efforts and the establishment of the committee as a standing rather than *ad hoc* one.

Senate Chair David Schultz and the chairs of standing Senate committees gave reports, the details of which will appear in the meeting minutes.

Strong discontent was raised by an Executive Committee member concerning e-mail messages broadcast to faculty that highlighted achievements and requested donations to U of L without acknowledgment of continuing pandemic-related disruptions and their potential fiscal impact, the salary cuts/furloughs in the spring, and the continuing impact on retirement contributions. The sentiment was shared by the entire Executive Committee and communicated to President Bendapudi by Senate Chair Schutz.