

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Report for January 2021

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Faculty Senate Vice Chair, Chair of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee had one regular meeting on January 27, and minutes will be duly available once approved at a future meeting. The regularly scheduled meeting for January 20 was canceled because several Executive Committee members had a schedule conflict with the meeting of the Task Force on Tuition and Fee Setting that afternoon and the full Faculty Senate had met only a week earlier.

January 27

Associate Provost Willey provided the broad outline and rationale for a developing proposal to alter pass/fail grading policies. “Fail” would be replaced with “no pass”, which would not have a negative impact on student GPA. The need for both faculty approval and notification of a student taking a course in pass/fail mode (or its successor) are also under discussion for revision. Once the administrative committee working on the proposal has finalized the language, it will be sent to the Senate Academic Programs Committee (APC) for review, and APC will make a report to the XC, which will develop a recommendation to the full Faculty Senate.

The procedure for reviewing proposals for new centers and academic programs and the roles of APC and the Senate Planning and Budget Committee (P&B) were discussed at length. A framework was agreed upon that generally formalized past practice regarding review ‘lanes’ but with an initial distribution of new proposals simultaneously to the Senate Chair, Senate Vice Chair, APC chair, and P&B chair. For centers and institutes, APC will provide a report to P&B for consideration in dialog with the proposers and preparation of the final report to the Senate. For academic programs, P&B will provide a report to APC for consideration in dialog with the proposers and preparation of the final report to the Senate.

Topics for the XC to discuss at a February 17 meeting with President Bendapudi were solicited.

Senate Chair David Schultz reported on his rapid fact-finding in response to an announcement that morning in U of L Today of a “new” printing policy. The policy appears to be the one adopted two years ago in a contract with Canon. Procurement Office Sally Jensen Molsberger will address the XC on February 24th regarding the policy and any changes from the original.

Volunteers for the new *ad hoc* Senate committee for antiracism and diversity issues were solicited (no one had yet volunteered). A discussion of the duties of that committee followed. One model is for the committee to function initially as an information center for the actions and proposals made by other committees addressing the same topics across campus. Senators and other faculty who are already diligently working on such committees would face a relatively small added time burden but serve a very useful liaison function so that the Senate committee is well-informed of initiatives across campus. Eventually, the committee will serve a role reviewing proposals that come to the Faculty Senate through a diversity/equity/inclusion/antiracism lens.

Reports by the representatives of the Student Government Association, Staff Senate, and standing Faculty Senate committees will be included in the meeting minutes.