

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Report for March 2021

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Faculty Senate Vice Chair, Chair of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met twice in March, and minutes will be duly available once approved at a future meeting.

March 17

Vice Provost Tracy Eells presented the emerging Faculty Accountability Policy, which had been modified to address concerns raised by the Executive Committee (XC) when the policy was first presented on October 21, 2020, including streamlined language, a clear statement that existing termination policy was not changed, and clarification that all actions taken under this policy are grievable by the faculty member. In response to questioning, Vice Provost Eells clarified that if a verbal warning is the “culmination” of the policy steps, then the written notification of the warning will not go into personnel files. The revision thus removes from the policy ‘coffee cup conversations’ between chairs and faculty members; such informal and friendly meetings to bring up issues with faculty performance or actions will not be included in personnel files.

The XC discussed whether or not the announcement shortly after the start of the semester of an extension of the withdrawal date was adequate. It is anticipated that with the putative end of the pandemic that such changes to the academic calendar will be very rare in coming semesters.

Senate Chair Schultz reporting on concerns about vaccination of faculty and staff (delayed again in this fast-developing and ever-changing issue) and updates on filling the new Faculty Senate *ad hoc* committees that address antiracism efforts and textbook access. Benjamin Barberie reported that Student Government Association elections were complete and Alexa Meza will be the new liaison to the Faculty Senate and the XC.

March 24

Senator Roy Fuller presented results from the Part-Time Faculty Survey. A similar presentation will be made at the Senate meeting at which this report is presented, so details will not be included here but will be available in the meeting minutes.

A substantial discussion was held concerning whether adoption of the Faculty Accountability Policy does or *should* require an affirmative Faculty Senate vote. The prevailing opinion of XC members, including Redbook Committee chair Detmering and Senate Chair Schultz, is that the Senate should (and will) offer input but does not have a right to hold a binding up-or-down vote on either the policy as a whole or particular language. Instead, the full Senate will be presented with the policy at the April meeting and have until the May meeting to gather input from Senators and their units to develop a motion that describes the sense of the Senate about the policy and expresses concerns beyond those raised by the XC.

Senate Chair Schultz reported that the Spring Forward Coordination Committee had been presented with a plan for a new mass vaccination site at Cardinal Stadium with a few days at the start reserved for U of L employees (that plan will come to fruition on April 8 and 9, one week later than projected at the March 24 meeting). He also sought feedback on whether the April

mandatory testing period should be suspended in light of the very low positivity rate. Major changes to health insurance options are coming, including the replacement of *Get Healthy Now* with a new vendor. Work continues to fill the new *ad hoc* Faculty Senate committees.

The Academic Programs Committee reported receipt of two new proposals, and the Committee on Committees & Credentials reported that only a few positions remain to be filled on the ballot for the upcoming Senate election.