

## **Faculty Senate Executive Committee Report for May 2021**

**Eugene Mueller**

**Faculty Senate Vice Chair, Chair of the Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee (XC) met twice in May and minutes will be duly available once approved at a future meeting.

### **May 19**

The XC welcomed new Student Government Association representative Alexa Meza, and Virginia “Ginger” Brown and Michael Cunningham reported on the election of new officers in the Staff Senate and AAUP, respectively.

The XC heard a report on the status of a workgroup that is reviewing the Faculty Leave Policy and preparing to recommend revisions. The XC then turned to a discussion of whether a change of mode of instruction throughout the courses in a program may constitute a significant enough alteration to warrant review by the Academic Programs Committee and the full Faculty Senate; the matter was referred to the Academic Programs Committee for further discussion. An exploration of priorities was begun concerning potential requests to the administration to restore at some point in the future the economic sacrifices of the faculty during the pandemic, including lost retirement matches and salary. June will likely mark the return to in-person XC meetings but with the option to attend virtually. Sherri Wallace reported that Provost Gonzalez suggested that it may be timely to review the grievance process; the last review concluded in 2009.

### **May 26**

Student representative Alexa Meza reported that the Student Government Association is planning to survey students about the return to ‘normal’ campus life and is having discussions with the administration about provisions to ensure the health and safety of students who are immunocompromised or have declined vaccination. Senate Chair David Schultz updated the XC on developments from the Board of Trustees and the Coordinating Committee in charge of the pandemic response, which is greatly reducing the frequency of regular meetings as rising vaccination levels prognosticate a return to regular operations over the summer. Gail Rhodes, Katherine Kerensky, and Kristin Brown reported on the proposed Verification of Student Identity Policy, which is required by federal and SACS regulations. Tracy Eels updated the XC regarding changes likely to be made to the draft Faculty Accountability Policy based on faculty input, but none of the proposed changes had yet been formally adopted, so there was no revised draft policy to share.