

Faculty Senate Executive Committee (XC) Report Feb. 1, 2023

Report submitted by Rob Detmering, FS Vice-Chair/XC Chair.

The XC met twice in January (1/18 and 1/25). During the 1/18 meeting, we primarily discussed faculty priorities for consideration with incoming President Kim Schatzel. Unsurprisingly, this was a wide-ranging discussion, with key topics including but not limited to:

- Real or perceived sense that there has been a reduction in faculty representation on administrative committees, especially budget-related committees.
- A need for the consistent presence of the President and Provost at Faculty Senate meetings.
- A need for greater clarity around the Faculty Senate's role in approving university policies.
- Asking President Schatzel to share her vision for shared governance.
- Issues with low faculty morale in some units/areas and the need for faculty to take ownership of morale and work together with President Schatzel and Provost Gonzalez to address concerns.
- The status of the university's anti-racism agenda and the need for progress on DEI objectives.
- Developing a clearer strategic vision for the university's research mission that recognizes the role of all units.
- Addressing inefficiencies around technology, bureaucratic processes (such as program approvals), and decentralization of units (silo problem).
- Concerns around compensation.

The XC also talked about understanding and communicating the roles of both the President and Provost, as faculty across the university do not always have a clear sense of how responsibilities are delineated at the administrative level.

During the 1/25 meeting, the XC met with Dean Beth Boehm to discuss various topics pertaining to the Graduate School. The majority of the conversation focused on ongoing challenges with the funding and allocation of graduate assistantships across the university.

On 1/25, the XC also discussed the most appropriate way for the senate to engage the United Campus Workers of Kentucky (UCW), following up on our meeting with union representative and English Department faculty member Benjamin Wilson in December. The XC determined that Senate Chair Eugene Mueller would invite a UCW representative to attend an upcoming full senate meeting as a first step.

Other ongoing topics of discussion within the XC include a potential pilot of Follett Access for courseware (not textbooks) in four high-enrollment courses over the summer and the potential

need to address the growing influence of AI programs (particularly ChatGPT) in higher education.