

**Executive Committee Minutes**  
**Faculty Senate**  
**January 29, 2018**

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met on Monday, January 29, 2018 at 3:30pm in the Faculty Center, Keen Johnson Building.

**PRESENT:** M. Ciocca, D. Corley, R. Day, L. Kay, P. Kopacz, N. Mason, I. Slusher, T. Spigelman, D. Whitehouse, and special guests Gill Hunter, Beth Polin, and Sherry Robinson.

**ABSENT:** M. Winslow\*

*\* Denotes prior notification of absence*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Senator Mason moved approval of the December 11, 2017 minutes as written, seconded by Senator Corley. Motion carried.

**GUESTS SPEAKERS:**

- ***Beth Polin and Gill Hunter – Student Success Initiatives Map***

Beth Polin and Gill Hunter were in attendance to address questions and/or concerns on the student success initiatives map. The AQC plans to continue to refine the document this semester. They are also researching which office on campus should be responsible for housing and maintaining the document.

Senator Kopacz recommended printing the one page map and distributing to all faculty on campus.

The draft document will be shared at the February Senate meeting as part of the AQC report. Senator Polin will forward an updated draft to the secretary before the first mailing to the Senate on Wednesday evening.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- ***Evaluation of President Benson***

Senator Ciocca announced that the next email to faculty should be sent out by Wednesday, January 31. The Chair and Vice Chair will work closely with Institutional Research to distribute the information.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- ***Policy Updates***

Vice Provost Robinson announced that the commenting period for the Faculty Grievances policy and the Student Travel policy will end tomorrow.

The revised Outside Activities Policy should be ready for vetting by the February XC meeting.

- ***Motions for Consideration***

- ***Motion 1 – Remove Merit Pay Guidelines from the Faculty Handbook***

Senator Kay introduced the Rules Committee motion. The XC was in agreement to list the motion on the February agenda under the reports section for the Rules Committee.

- ***Motion 2 – Clarify Voting Privileges on Executive Committee***

Senator Kay introduced the Rules Committee motion. The XC was in agreement to list the motion on the February agenda under the reports section for the Rules Committee.

- ***Announcements***

Senator Ciocca announced that Carter Sickels has stepped down from the Budget Committee. Therefore, an election is necessary to fill the vacancy at the February meeting.

Senator Kay announced that Karen Martin may be stepping down from the Faculty Senate. If so, there will be a vacancy on the Rules Committee. A decision will not be forthcoming until after Senator Martin's departmental meeting on Thursday.

Beginning in February, the Executive Committee will meet in Breakout Room 3, Noel Studio for the rest of the spring semester.

## **REPORTS:**

- ***Budget Committee: Senator Ciocca***

The Budget Committee will meet this Wednesday.

- ***Elections & University Nominations Committee: Senator Mason***

The Elections & University Nominations Committee will meet this Thursday to tweak the spring survey requesting self-nominations for university standing committees.

- ***Faculty Welfare Committee: Senator Spigelman***

Senator Spigelman stated that faculty in her area expressed confusion over the difference between flexible spending accounts and the health savings account. She plans to discuss that with the Faculty Welfare Committee, and they may wish to submit a report to Senate clarifying the differences between those accounts.

- ***Rights & Responsibilities Committee: Senator Corley***

The committee reviewed the Intellectual Properties policy and recently shared their recommendations with Vice Provost Robinson and University Counsel Dana Fohl.

The committee also continues to review faculty workload issues.

- ***Rules Committee: Senator Kay***

Senator Kay is working with IT on the faculty-at-large petition template as well as an updated mass mailing list for all eligible faculty.

- ***Faculty Senate Chair Report: Senator Winslow***

Senator Winslow shared the following in his written report to XC.

The Budget Advisory Committee has met with several VP-level administrators from units across campus, with several more to come. Dean Zeigler and I have held two drop-in sessions for faculty in our roles as Senators. Approximately 25 faculty came to the first one, and a similar number of faculty came to the second one. The third meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. The final session was at 2pm on January 29. The Committee also held a session for the full faculty on January 22 in

the O'Donnell Auditorium. Approximately 50 faculty attended that session. The Committee made a brief presentation about where we stand on the budget (as best we knew at the time), and outlined the process the Committee is going through. The bulk of the time was spent on faculty comments and questions. It was a productive and satisfying session. Many comments echoed those made in the drop-in sessions. There was a general anxiety from the audience, which is understandable. A \$25M cut to our (unencumbered) budget (~\$210M) is significant, and there is not enough money in M&O to absorb the entire cut, which will force us to recommend cuts to programs and personnel. Be assured, the Committee is considering cuts to every part of the University. Our process requires that every VP-level administrator submit proposals for cutting 15, 20 and 25% of their budget – that is the part of the process that will be equally shared across campus. While we have considered making across-the-board cuts of various types, we intend to make strategic cuts, meaning that not all sectors will be affected equally. Our goal is to come out of this process as strong an institution as possible, guided by the mission of the institution and our strategic plan. Our recommendations are due to the President's Council on March 9.

- Faculty Regent Report: Senator Day

The next Board meeting will be on Monday, February 26 at 9am in the Center for the Arts.

As you are aware, in preparation for the impending reductions to EKU's allocation from the state budget, President Benson established a University-wide Budget Review Committee to gather input and provide recommendations for reducing our budget by \$25 million. That target amount is the product of anticipated increases in our KERS pension obligations of \$10M; another \$2-5M for KTRS; decreased tuition revenue; and multiple cuts to our base funding in FY 18 and again in FY 19.

Unfortunately, the legislature still shows little appetite for generating new revenue and seems to prefer cutting services to the citizens of Kentucky instead. But this is a very fluid situation. Between now and April 15<sup>th</sup>, the General Assembly can amend the proposed Executive Budget or pass it "as is."

Numerous meetings of administrative, academic affairs, and faculty groups are ongoing across campus. Prioritized input from the Deans is expected by the end of this month. The Budget Review Committee plans to report its recommendations by March 1<sup>st</sup>. The President's Council will review those recommendations and provide its input to the president by mid-March. The Board of Regents is scheduled to receive the president's recommendations in a called meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup> (location TBD).

The Board has limited its involvement to assuring an open process with multiple opportunities for faculty and staff input, and looking toward as positive an outcome as possible for the institution.

- Provost Report: Senator Whitehouse

Senator Whitehouse announced that EKU has been awarded a \$50,000 grant to help with students in gateway courses such as math and English reading.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:50pm.