

Executive Committee Minutes
Faculty Senate
February 22, 2021

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met remotely on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 3:45pm via Zoom.

PRESENT: R. Bishop-Ross, R. Causey-Upton, M. Ciocca, R. Crosby, M. Johnson, L. Jones, L. Kay, J. Marion, J. Pogatshnik, B. Woodruff, and special guests Dana Bush, David McFaddin, Beth Polin, Jennifer Wies, and Sara Zeigler.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Senator Crosby moved approval of the January 25, 2021 minutes as written, seconded by Senator Woodruff. Motion carried unanimously.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

- **[General Education ENGAGE Plan](#)**
Associate Provost Wies shared information on the new ECU ENGAGE proposal that was recently approved by the General Education Committee in early February. This program will design and deliver evidence-based professional development to all faculty (full-time and part-time) teaching general education courses on the Richmond campus as well as all of the other campuses. The program begins in the fall and will be housed in the Noel Studio. The program is designed to assist faculty with teaching, developing, and assessing their general education courses.

- **[Role of the New Faculty Advocate](#)**
Dr. Beth Polin was in attendance to provide information on her role as the new faculty advocate. The XC was in agreement to invite Dr. Polin to the March Senate meeting to share the information with the senators.

NEW BUSINESS:

- *Guest Speakers Approved for the March Senate Meeting*
 - **Beth Polin** – Role of the New Faculty Advocate

 - **Jill Page & Elizabeth Ballou** –Strategies and how faculty and departments can engage in recruitment activities

Senator Kay recommended that at some point at least an hour-long training session should be offered to all faculty on recruiting strategies.

 - **Roger Cleveland**
NOTE: After the XC meeting, Dr. Cleveland notified the secretary that he was available to speak to the Senate at the April meeting.

 - **Eyouel Mekonnen** – SGA Update

REPORTS:**Standing Committees:**

- *Academic Quality Committee – Senator Crosby*

The committee was charged with developing a faculty survey to find out what worked and didn't work regarding instructional changes as a result of the pandemic. While the committee is still working on finalizing the report, a preliminary draft was provided to the Executive Committee for review. Once the qualitative data has been added to the report it will be shared with the full Senate.

- *Budget Committee – Senator Woodruff*

The committee met on February 8 to review the budget data received from Athletics.

Also discussed was how to approach faculty salaries. The committee would like to collaborate with the Faculty Welfare Committee on this issue.

In addition, the BookSmart program was discussed. There is a concern about the continuation of the program since there is a cost associated with that for the university. There still seems to be a lot of support for the OER program which minimizes the total cost of attendance without negatively impacting our budget.

- *Information Technology Committee – Senator Causey-Upton*

The committee last met on January 29 to discuss the logistics of continuing to use google forms for voting purposes once face-to-face meetings resume.

Senator Pogatshnik stated that faculty may contact his office if they have procurement-type issues or IT concerns and are unsure who to contact. He will make sure the appropriate areas are notified.

- *Rules Committee – Senator Kay*

An email was distributed to committee chairs asking that they review their internal procedures and send any updates to Senator Kay by Friday, March 5. The internal procedures are available for review on the Senate website at:

<http://www.facultysenate.eku.edu/internal/>.

The committee continues to discuss the changes in the faculty handbook, particularly the definition of faculty and the impact that may have on policies because some policies or guidelines do refer to the faculty-at-large. In particular, one of the things that came up in recent years was the procedures for evaluating the president. There had been a discussion about who got to participate in that; and that was one of the reasons that the Rules Committee had tried to make some updates over the last couple of years. Then it occurred to us that maybe the policy drafting folks didn't mean to include the adjunct faculty in the evaluation of the president; and if we change the definition of the faculty-at-large without understanding the intent then we are, in effect, changing policy. So Associate Provost Wies and Haley Norberg have been invited to the next meeting to discuss the issue further.

Other:

- *Faculty Regent's Report - Senator Marion:*
The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 4 at 9am.

- *Provost's Report - Senator Pogatshnik:*
The announcement came out last week about realigning a college. We're going to form a STEM College to promote science and technology STEM disciplines. The College of Business will become a stand-alone college. A transition team has been established to work on the details of that.

There are three Dean searches currently underway:

- Dean of Class
- Dean for the College of Business
- Dean of the College of Justice and Safety

The goal is to have those positions filled and in place by Fall 2022. All of the searches will be external. An external consulting firm will be hired to help recruit candidates from the outside.

There were more comments than usual from faculty during the 14-day commenting period for Policy 8.3.3 – Employee Conduct. Faculty did not seem to realize that Policy 8.3.3 is just consolidating three current policies into one policy. The policy is expected to be presented to the Board of Regents at the March meeting; so Provost Pogatshnik wanted to make sure the Executive Committee was aware of the confusion. Some of the suggestions received were very good and did help to improve the policy. Senator Ciocca stated that he will make note of that in his Chair report to the Senate to help clear up any confusion.

An internal group is currently reviewing the AGS degrees. As you are probably aware, more and more students are going into the AGS program because of academic readiness; so that procedure is being reviewed as well.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5pm.