

Executive Committee Minutes
Faculty Senate
March 22, 2021

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met remotely on Monday, March 22, 2021 at 4pm via Zoom.

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

ABSENT: J. Pogatshnik*

**Indicates prior notification of absence*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Senator Crosby moved approval of the February 22, 2021 minutes as written, seconded by Senator Woodruff. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- *Policy Update – Haley Norberg*
 - Policy 4.3.5 – Drop or Withdrawal from Courses, which was approved by Faculty Senate in March, was posted online for public comments this morning and will remain available through April 5.
 - Senator Crosby moved to present Policy 4.1.4 – Course Syllabi at the April Senate meeting for action, seconded by Senator Woodruff. Motion carried unanimously. Immediately following the XC meeting, the policy will be distributed to the senators to share with their colleagues to gather feedback for discussion at the April Senate meeting.
 - Two policies (Academic Credit and Intellectual Property) are currently under review and revisions should be completed by the end of the semester. The policies should be ready for vetting in the fall semester.

- *Consideration to Increase Policy Commenting Period*

Chair Ciocca was contacted about considering a change to increase the policy commenting period from two weeks to three weeks. The issue arose after Policy 8.2.2 – Employee Leave and Policy 8.3.3 – Employee Conduct were introduced as informational items at the February Senate meeting without accompanying paperwork.

Ms. Norberg shared that administrative policies are listed for information only on the Senate agendas so that faculty are aware of policy changes that may have an effect on employees. As administrative policies are not action items for Senate, paperwork for those policies will not be available until they are posted online for the 14-day commenting period. If available, Ms. Norberg will attempt to post administrative policies for the 14-day commenting period as close to Senate meetings as possible.

- *2021-2022 Senate Schedule*

It is anticipated that in-person meetings will be possible next year. With that in mind, a tentative schedule of Senate meetings and XC meetings was shared. The tentative list will be included in the May Senate packets for the organizational meeting.
- *Senator and Committee Vacancies*

A tentative list of senator and committee vacancies was shared. Chair Ciocca noted that a memo along with the list of vacancies has been distributed to all chairs asking that replacements be named in time for new members to attend the May organizational meeting.

The tentative list of vacancies will be included as an informational item in the April Senate packets.
- *Guest Speakers Approved for the April Senate Meeting*
 - **Roshaon Tyter** – Academic Impressions: Web-based Trainings & Resources Available for Full-time and Part-time Employees
 - **Roger Cleveland** –Increasing Diverse Faculty
 - **Eyouel Mekonnen** – SGA Update
- *Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair*

Chair Ciocca reminded that nominations for chair and vice chair will be called for at the April Senate meeting.

REPORTS:

Standing Committees:

- *Academic Quality Committee – Senator Jones*

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. The final report and PowerPoint presentation on the committee's findings has been submitted to the Senate Chair and will be included in the senate packets for the April meeting.
- *Budget Committee – Senator Woodruff*

Our committee would like to be involved in the university discussions on the current pay structure and ways to improve that going forward. We plan to survey faculty to gauge how they feel about the issue and will incorporate that feedback into any advice that we can provide in that process.
- *Information Technology Committee – Senator Causey-Upton*

The committee is still reviewing the option to use google forms for voting when we return to in-person meetings.
- *Rules Committee – Senator Kay*

The Rules Committee would like to submit one small change to their internal procedures. The information will be forwarded to the secretary for inclusion in the April Senate packets.

Associate Provost Wies and Haley Norberg attended the last meeting to discuss the definition of faculty for use in section VII in the Faculty Handbook and how to move forward with that. Once a draft becomes available, it will be shared first with Associate Provost Wies, Haley Norbert, John Dixon and any other relevant stakeholders for review before it comes to the Senate for a vote. Therefore, the charge will need to carry over to the fall semester.

- *Ad Hoc Committee to Review Open Source Textbooks – Senator Ciocca*
The committee applied for and received an extension on the grant with the Board of Regents.

Standing Committees:

- *General Education Committee – Senator Causey-Upton*
The bulk of the last meeting centered around the discussion on Sociology 135 and EDC 106 which will focus more on diversity and culture.

Other:

- *Faculty Regent’s Report - Senator Marion:*
The Board met on March 4. The highlights of the meeting included the Board Innovation Fund updates and the approval of the OER Textbook Program, Taylor Fork (the natural area the university maintains and uses for teaching and learning and research) received support, as well as the commercial Foster Music Camp.
- *Provost’s Report – Provost-Elect Zeigler reported for Senator Pogatshnik:*
Provost-Elect Zeigler clarified an email sent out last week on 3-foot social distancing. This is for summer and fall—not for the current semester. Rooms are being re-measured to make sure we’re ready should there be a change in CDC guidance for higher education.

In comparing modalities from Fall 2019 to Fall 2021, they look quite similar. So for those students who benefit more from traditional instruction, it looks like we are going to be a lot closer to where we were pre-pandemic than we have been during the past year. Thanks to chairs and faculty for working so hard to make that happen.

Two additional department mergers have been announced. First, Geosciences and Physics are combining to form a new department. An internal search is underway for a new department chair. Second, Languages, Cultures, and Humanities will join with Anthropology and Sociology with Abby Poffenberger leading that unit. All of the affected people in those units have already been notified of the changes.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:30pm.