

Executive Committee Minutes
Faculty Senate
October 19, 2020

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met remotely on Monday, October 19, 2020 at 4pm 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, Roger Cleveland, Bethany Miller, Haley Norberg and Jennifer Wies.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Senator Crosby moved approval of the September 28, 2020 minutes as written, seconded by Senator Woodruff. Motion carried unanimously.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

- *2022 EKU Strategic Plan*
Bethany Miller and Jennifer Wies were in attendance to gather feedback from the committee on the best ways to assure faculty participation in the 2022 strategic planning process. Some of the ideas shared included the following:
 - Send short surveys with a specific purpose to faculty. (*Be sure to include the approximate time needed to complete the survey.*) Senator Kay suggested doing a small pilot study before going live with the survey, possibly sending to XC first for a trial run.
 - Promote widely before distributing surveys.
 - Hold a town hall session
 - Schedule focus groups per college

Dr. Wies asked to speak at Senate in November to go through the survey questions and to have a semi-listening session with the senators. The XC was in agreement to add to the November agenda.

- *Diversity and Inclusion on our Campus*
At the last XC meeting, President McFaddin suggested inviting Dr. Roger Cleveland to a future meeting to learn more about diversity and inclusion efforts on our campus.

Dr. Cleveland stated that in order to have an effective diversity plan, there has to be a uniform and collective effort for the entire university. We want to have an intentional culture as it relates to equity and not an accidental culture.

Dr. Cleveland plans to have several meetings with the deans and chairs which will focus on faculty recruitment and retention. In addition several training sessions will be scheduled for faculty in the spring and fall.

The XC invited Dr. Cleveland to speak more on the topic to the Senate in November.

NEW BUSINESS:○ *Policy Updates*

- Ms. Norberg reminded that the following policies are scheduled to be on the November Senate agenda for action.
 - Policy 4.3.7 – Dual and Joint Degree Agreements between ECU and Other Institutions
 - Policy 9.3.4 – Protection of Minors on Campus

Ms. Norberg stated that the policy process calls for all academic policies to come to Senate for action. Everything outside of that should come forward as an information only item. As policy 9.3.4 is actually a non-academic policy, it should be removed as an action item on the November Senate agenda and presented as information only.

○ *Discussion Items*

- Possible changes to Senate schedule
 - *Should December 7 meeting be cancelled since the semester is over by then (and possibly cancel the November 23 XC meeting)?*

Provost Pogatshnik noted that two new programs need to be reviewed by the Senate so they can be forwarded to CPE for consideration before the end of the year. However, the programs could be presented at the November Senate meeting for action with the caveat that if Senate goes ahead and approves and then the CAA were to make any significant changes to the programs at their November meeting, the changes would need to come back to Senate in December for further consideration.

Chair Ciocca stated that the decision on cancellation of either meeting will not be made until later in November. He will send a note to the senators once a decision has been reached.

- *Should the February 15 Executive Committee meeting be changed?*

As February 15 is now a scheduled ECU Day, the Executive Committee meeting should be rescheduled for February 22.
- *Will Zoom meetings continue in the spring semester?*

Given the latest Covid updates, it is highly likely that all of the spring meetings will continue through the Zoom platform.

○ *Announcements*

- Guest speakers approved for the November Senate Meeting include the following.
 - Jennifer Wies & Bethany Miller – Strategic Planning Listening Session (interactive discussion)

- Jennifer Wies – General Education Task Forces (information & updates)
- Roger Cleveland – Diversity and Inclusion on our Campus
- Eyouel Mekonnen – SGA Update (*Chair Ciocca agreed to contact Mr. Mekonnen to see if there will be an SGA report.*)

REPORTS:

Standing Committees:

- *Academic Quality Committee*
Senator Jones stated that one of the committee charges this year was to develop a faculty survey on what worked and didn't work during the Pandemic. The survey created actually includes more questions than what we were initially charged with. In addition, it will be put through the IRB to get some more information about the transition to online instruction, some of the challenges that were met, and some of the successes.
- *Budget Committee*
The committee met and formulized the plan for the academic year. Senator Woodruff will continue to serve as chair of the committee.
- *Elections & University Nominations Committee*
Senator Bishop-Ross reported that the committee is currently working on the election for the part-time faculty representative.
- *Information Technology Committee*
Senator Causey-Upton reported that the committee talked about the responses received from the 2020 faculty information technology survey 2020. Below are some of the faculty concerns.
 - Need a quicker response time when there are synchronous teaching issues.
 - Need professional tutorials for students on how to use Zoom and other video conferencing software and video discussion boards like Flipgrid.
 - Only 10 to 20% of faculty are able to use Blackboard effectively on mobile devices. Is Blackboard the best learning management system going forward?
 - The two-step authentication system is inconvenient and time consuming and the option to stay logged in doesn't work.
 - A large group of faculty said that they would teach both synchronously and asynchronously but they felt that the majority of online courses for spring should be listed as synchronous.
 - Need faculty training in administering exams effectively.
 - Possible issues with academic integrity.
 - 20% of respondents wanted more training in Blackboard and other Google apps.
- *Rules Committee*
Senator Kay was elected to serve as chair and Senator Causey-Upton was elected to serve as secretary for the year.

One of the committee charges this year is to review the voting process in the Senate. There may be a possibility of continuing to use Google Forms beyond the Zoom platform. The committee is still reviewing ideas at this point.

Senator Bishop-Ross asked about the status of the Faculty Handbook changes that the Senate approved in November. The changes still need to be sent to the faculty-at-large for review. Senator Kay suggested waiting until the committee can review the changes further as there may be additional changes that should be made before it goes to the faculty-at-large.

The committee would like to work with the Elections and University Nominations Committee to review the process used for soliciting self nominations for the faculty positions on the General Education Committee.

University Committees:

- *General Education Committee*
Senator Causey-Upton has replaced Senator Kay as the Faculty Senate representative.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday.

Other:

- *Faculty Regent's Report - Senator Marion:*
The next scheduled Board meeting will be on Thursday, December 10.
- *Provost's Report - Senator Pogatshnik:*
We are currently reviewing the list of recommendations received during the program review workshops and working on the report to send to CPE which is due by the end of the year.

There has been one recent staffing change. Rusty Carpenter now reports to the Provost rather than to the Library.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Senator Marion reported that COSFL met virtually for the first time in a long time and had tremendous attendance. During the discussion it was the consensus of the attendees that each faculty senate group should try to identify three statewide key issues for discussion at the next meeting. Senator Woodruff agreed to provide an update at the November Senate meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:30pm.