

**Executive Committee Minutes
Faculty Senate
March 21, 2022**

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met remotely on Monday, March 21, 2022 at approximately 4pm via Zoom.

PRESENT: R. Bishop-Ross, R. Crosby, M. Johnson, L. Jones, L. Kay, J. Marion, S. McGuffin, G. Spira, and S. Zeigler

ABSENT: V. Grabeel

** Denotes prior notification of absence*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Senator Johnson moved approval of the February 21, 2022 minutes as written, seconded by Senator Jones. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT FROM THE PROVOST: Sara Zeigler

The College of Health Sciences' dean search is at the semi-finalists stage. The search committee will be interviewing 8 candidates via zoom this week. Finalist interviews will probably be scheduled in early to mid-April.

Dr. Gill Hunter has agreed to serve as interim dean for the College of Education and Applied Human Sciences next year while we conduct a search to fill the position. That search will be co-chaired by Associate Provost Mulholland and Assistant Superintendent Puckett from Model. Within the next two or three weeks, we will begin having listening sessions with the faculty, chairs, and other key constituents to learn the needs for the college before naming the rest of the search committee.

The newly hired CLASS dean is conducting an internal search for her associate dean. The idea is to have someone in place by the time she arrives so that that college can go forward and not miss a beat.

A planned covid update message should be going out to the campus community tomorrow with the mask optional in all settings from this point forward. KN-95 masks are still available for anyone who wants them. Faculty and Academic Affairs staff should direct those requests to the college dean. Non-academic staff should contact HR.

A campus message was sent out prior to spring break on changes to e-campus facilitator thresholds. Those have now been lowered to 30 for undergraduate and 25 for graduate courses. This change was in direct response to input from faculty about their needs and after careful review of budgets and reductions that covered the costs.

Associate Provost Mulholland has taken on an additional responsibility of liaison with student government and will be working closely with them to make sure we're getting a student perspective on what we're doing in Academic Affairs.

A question was raised at the last problem solvers meeting with the Senate leadership about the spring Assurance of Learning Day and if it's a non-instructional. At my request, Dana Bush brought this up at the Chairs Council recently and the chairs felt strongly that a fall day is sufficient, and if a spring day is needed, it should be considered a work day. I also want to hear recommendations on this issue from the group working on the academic calendar. Dr. Wies and I will talk about this tomorrow and will get some information out to faculty soon. I anticipate we will have the fall day and then not have a non-instructional day in the spring.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discussion Items

- *Faculty Senate Resolution on Cancelling Student Debt*

Chair Crosby presented the resolution and noted that Senator Winslow will present it at the April meeting, if approved by the Executive Committee. The committee was in agreement to add to the agenda.

Chair Crosby reminded that the folks who passed this along to Senator Winslow are hoping to get approval nationally from all the faculty senates by the first part of April in order to send a clear message to the federal government. After today's discussion however, this seems like a much more complex issue and depending on the discussion in Senate, someone may need to move to postpone and refer to the Faculty Welfare Committee for further study.

- *Rules Committee Proposed Revisions to Part 7 in the Faculty Handbook and the Faculty Senate Internal Procedures*

Co-chairs Bishop-Ross and Kay presented the proposed changes for both documents. The Executive Committee was in agreement to list both on the April Senate agenda for action.

- Guest Speakers for April Senate Meeting

Jenna Smith was tentatively approved as a guest speaker. The Senate secretary agreed to contact Ms. Smith for confirmation before adding the SGA report to the agenda.

REPORTS:

Senate Standing Committee Liaison Reports & General Reports

- *Academic Quality Committee – Senator Kay*

The committee will have a report to present at the April Senate meeting.

- *Elections and University Nominations Committee – Senator Spira*

Acting Chair Meiners reported that Jason Marion officially received 100% of the votes cast in the faculty regent election. Chair Meiners will send an official notification to the Senate Chair who will pass it along to the administration and the faculty-at-large.

The next charge the committee will work on is the election for the part-time faculty senate representative. The election will be completed in time for the new representative to attend the May organizational meeting.

The committee will also be contacting department chairs soon for replacements for senators who are rotating off Senate in May.

- *Faculty Welfare Committee – Senator Jones*

The committee should have a report on the faculty survey results available in time for the April meeting.

- *Rules Committee – Senator Kay*

One possible charge for the committee next year might be to investigate the open meeting laws to see how strict the laws are as far as recording individual votes on action items.

- *Rights and Responsibilities Committee – Senator Johnson*

The committee contacted Dana Fohl to schedule a meeting to discuss creating a drafting team to work on the revisions for the Faculty Grievance policy. As there was no response, they are trying to schedule a meeting with Whitney Crowe, another attorney in the University Counsel's office.

- *General Education Committee – Senator Jones*

The committee met on March 1.

A list of general education courses for summer will be sent out to faculty soon.

Two courses were approved for element 5b. CRJ 101 and CMS 200. There was discussion about why CMS 200 was going to element 5b instead of 1c, but the committee decided the actual content in the course fit better with 5b.

CMS 375 was approved conditionally for element 6. It was sent back to the department for further revisions and will come back to General Education for further review later.

BUS 305 recently did a SWOT analysis about the university; the General Education Committee reviewed the analysis for informational purposes only.

- *Senate Chair Report – Richard Crosby*

Nominations for Senate Chair and Vice Chair will occur at the April meeting.

○ *Faculty Regent Report – Jason Marion*

As Faculty Regent, I am advocating for our faculty get the time they need to help with recruitment at the institution. Our faculty are our best recruiters especially in small departments.

Another issue recently brought to my attention relates to student aid, with regards to our faculty, who were on tuition waivers. This may be something to bring up at our monthly problem solvers meeting with the provost. In addition, the issue may need to be referred to Beth Polin, Faculty Ombud.

Dr. Aaron Thompson's videos with the CPE on their Higher Education Matters campaign are really powerful, and we should try our best to be behind it as a faculty community statewide.

ADJOURNMENT:

Senator Bishop-Ross moved to adjourn at approximately 5:30pm, seconded by Senator McGuffin.