

Executive Committee Minutes
Faculty Senate
August 30, 2021

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met remotely on Monday, August 30, 2021 at 4pm via Zoom.

PRESENT: R. Bishop-Ross, R. Crosby, V. Grabeel, M. Johnson, L. Jones, J. Marion, S. McGuffin, G. Spira, and special guest Dana Bush

ABSENT: L. Kay*

**Indicates prior notification of absence*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Senator Bishop-Ross moved approval of the April 19, 2021 minutes as written, seconded by Senator Johnson. **Motion carried unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS:

- *Discussion Items*
 - *Part-Time Election Process*

Senator Crosby recommended that the Rules Committee review the part-time election process and consider changing the term from two years to one year and moving the election process from May to September to allow for a larger pool of candidates. Senator Bishop-Ross agreed to bring the issue before the Rules Committee. If the Rules Committee recommends moving forward, a motion would need to be written and brought before the Faculty Senate and the Faculty-at-Large for a vote as this would alter language in section 7 of the Faculty Handbook.

Senator Crosby asked for a progress report at the next XC meeting.

- *2020-2021 Committee Charges*

Chair Crosby presented the charges for the standing committees. Senator McGuffin moved to approve the charges, seconded by Senator Jones. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Senator Crosby stated that he would share the charges with the standing committees and request that they meet and elect a chair prior to the September Senate meeting.

- *Election for Standing Committee Vacancies*

Two committee vacancies need to be filled at the September meeting (Elections & University Nominations Committee [1 vacancy] and Faculty Welfare Committee [1 vacancy]).

- *Guest Speakers for the September Senate Meeting*

The Executive Committee approved the following guest speakers.

1. Beth Polin – Faculty Advocate
2. Jenna Smith – SGA Update (*tentative*)

REPORTS:

Standing Committees:

- *Academic Quality Committee*
The Senate Vice-Chair automatically serves on the AQC. As such, Senator Kay will serve as the XC committee liaison.
- *Budget Committee*
Senator Grabeel volunteered to serve as XC liaison.
- *Elections & University Nominations Committee*
Senator Spira volunteered to serve as XC liaison.
- *Faculty Welfare Committee*
Senator Jones volunteered to serve as XC liaison.

The committee met recently via Zoom and elected Senator Blair as chair.

The University Benefits Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet on Thursday, September 2nd. As chair of Faculty Welfare, Senator Blair serves on that committee.

- *Rules Committee*
Senator Bishop-Ross volunteered to serve as XC liaison.

Senators Bishop-Ross and Kay met with HR in early summer to discuss the definitions of faculty. Basically, they indicated that nothing we change in the faculty handbook language will affect anything in HR at all. So, the Rules Committee will continue to work on the handbook revisions and will submit to Senate for review upon completion.

- *Ad Hoc Committee to Review Open Source Textbooks*
Senator Marion volunteered to serve as XC liaison. He reminded everyone that the Board of Regents awarded the OER committee with a second, larger innovation fund this year. Last year's efforts saved close to \$100,000 in terms of all the different classes that are using the OER resources.

Senator Crosby stated that in the committee's final year-end report, one of the recommendations was to consider whether the ad hoc committee should become a permanent standing committee of the Senate or a university-wide committee with Senate representation.

Senator Crosby will discuss the issue further with Chair Kelly Smith to determine which approach the committee would prefer to pursue.

Senator Marion suggested that the University Bookstore Advisory Committee should be included in that discussion as well as folks from Purchasing or Auxiliary Services.

University Committees:

- *Late Withdrawals Due to Extenuating Circumstances*
Senator Jones volunteered to serve as Faculty Senate representative and XC liaison.
- *Residency Appeals Committee*
Senator Bishop-Ross volunteered to serve as Faculty Senate representative and XC liaison.
- *General Education Committee*
Senator Kay volunteered to serve as Faculty Senate representative and XC liaison.

Other:

- *Senate Chair's Report - Senator Crosby:*
Much of the summer was spent working on the following:
 - Revising the standing committee charges for this year.
 - Soliciting XC volunteers to serve as liaisons to our standing committees.
 - Coordinating the efforts to move Senate meetings from the South Ballroom to the Main Ballroom to more easily meet spacing requirements due to COVID.
 - Securing the return of refreshments for the Senate meetings. (*Thanks to President McFaddin for funding refreshments for us again this year.*)

In addition, I worked with Vice Chair Lisa Kay and Faculty Regent Jason Marion to establish a regular “problem solver’s” meeting once a month with the Provost. There have been two such meetings already and many issues have been discussed. We have found the Provost to be very open to talking about all of these issues and intent on addressing problems.

With the changing of the state statute, university presidents are now evaluated on an annual basis. Regent Marion reported that he met recently with the Board work group that will be overseeing the evaluation process and they have decided to follow the same process that was used previously. The surveys distributed to the different constituents will be distributed on September 9th and the link to access the survey will remain open until just after fall break in October. The Senate Executive Committee will have until November 5th to compile the faculty survey data and submit their written report to the Board. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

- *Faculty Regent's Report - Senator Marion:*
The next Board of Regents meeting is Thursday, September 23.

- *Provost's Report –Senator Zeigler:*
Academic Affairs is establishing a new review process for position requests for tenure-track faculty lines. The deans will bring forward requests (selected in consultation with their chairs) for new positions or replacements in September and in February. The requests will be reviewed in Deans' Council and prioritized, with permissions to search issued in October or late March. This will allow us to allocate resources to the areas where they will serve us best and also promote collaboration among colleges. Most important, the process should ensure timely approval of positions, which will allow for early searches and better recruitment of strong candidates. Emergencies will be managed with visiting position approvals. Departments that must issue a tenure denial or a non-reappointment of a tenure-track faculty member will automatically receive permission to search. Once approved, the position is held for search for up to two years.

Faculty have inquired about seats for Respondus Monitor. We had hoped that our need for online proctoring would be reduced, but are investigating demand in anticipation of needing to continue the service.

Faculty will continue to receive updates regularly.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:15pm.