

Executive Committee Minutes
Faculty Senate
October 18, 2021

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met remotely on Monday, October 18, 2021 at approximately 4pm via Zoom.

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

ABSENT: V. Grabeel and M. Johnson*

** Denotes notification of absence
(NOTE: S. McGuffin had to leave early.)*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Senator Jones moved approval of the September 27, 2021 minutes as written, seconded by Senator Kay. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT FROM THE PROVOST: Sara Zeigler

Later this week, a call will go out for proposals on cross-college or interdisciplinary sorts of collaboration. The Provost office is providing \$100,000 from some strategic initiative funds for this project. Sherry Powers and Colleen Schneck are co-chairing that group; and, the other members of the committee include Michael Fore, Lisa Middleton, Betsy Matthews and Heather Fox. This group will be responsible for reviewing the proposals. The call is going to be very broad, because we want to encourage faculty to think about what they want to do, what they could do if they had time and resources--whatever they might need to work with their colleagues in other colleges or within a college to work across disciplinary boundaries. The deadline to submit proposals will be probably the end of December or early January. Then, the committee will make recommendations to me to award funding by the end of January. As people think through potential proposals, it ideally should be things that could be spent or purchased or encumbered by the end of the fiscal year.

There should be an announcement about modifications to the pandemic travel policies coming out soon. We're going to loosen up a little bit in the amount of permissible travel--especially for student travel or international travel, which will be a more complicated approval process. For international travel, both faculty and staff will go through the same process and the vetting will be done by the Education Abroad Office, simply because they have the expertise to check on conditions in other countries and have a process in place for doing that.

A brief update on the deans' searches that are underway. *(Just a reminder that there will be open forums with the finalists in each search for the whole university with virtual participation options also available.)*

- We have recommendations from the search committee for Justice, Safety and Military Science for three finalists. We're reaching out to those finalists to see if they also are interested in us. Once we have confirmation of that and a schedule, we will send that information out to all of campus.

- CLASS is the next one in the timeline and, the best consideration date is the end of the month. In terms of applications there are about 20 completed applications and another five or so where there's like one piece missing from the portal. And then another 10 to 15 conversations underway, where they think those might result in applications. We expect interviews on those will happen in November.
- The College of Business is on a slightly more extended timeline with the best consideration date happening in November. Semi-finalists will be interviewed probably before break, and then we anticipate bringing the finalists after we get through the first week of classes in in January.
- On Health Sciences, the co-chairs have been named and the search committee has been identified. The co-chairs are contacting the search committee members to affirm their willingness to participate, and then we will announce that membership to campus and get that leadership profile developed, do some listening sessions with the faculty and the college, and go from there on that search.

There has been some concern over the continuation of the use of Zoom and if it will be replaced by the Team's platform. Be assured, we do plan to keep Zoom licenses.

Chair Crosby asked for an update on new laptops and when the rollout would take place. Provost Zeigler stated that the current lease expires in January 2023. New laptops will be issued to faculty. There is no plan to extend the leases or to go beyond the four-year timeframe. A few things came up with regard to serving as advisors to student organizations where there's a new policy on registered student organizations with SSO and VSO. If you know of anyone who is concerned about the guidance they're getting or needs help with the new policy, I have some interpretations from counsel about what can be departmental organizations and what have to be voluntary student organizations that is somewhat reassuring. There was a concern that a departmental club would have to go into the voluntary student organization category which requires additional paperwork from the faculty advisor, and that is not the case. Those discipline-based organizations can basically be blessed by the department chair and be considered as an SSO.

On the vaccine mandate issue, the perspective the Board of Regents has taken is that that is a Board-level decision. There are considerable risks associated with being the sole university in Kentucky to launch a mandate; and, there's a lot of concern about us going out alone on this and losing support and enrollment. On the basis of that, we also believe that if we pursued a mandate, the legislature would require us to have significant exemptions--to the extent that the mandate would be extremely difficult to enforce. What has worked well at UK and U of L is strong encouragement and availability, combined with a very rigorous testing regimen. UK and U of L received state funding to do their testing regimens as community health providers. For those that opt out of the vaccine, the testing regimen for ECU would cost approximately \$7 million. While we would like to provide testing and have requested funding to cover the cost, we have not heard if that request will be granted.

Chair Crosby asked about the status of the critical race theory. Provost Zeigler checked with Ethan Witt about the status of the legislation on that. It seems to be quiet right now. So, the good news is that those two pre-filed bills have not gained any traction among leadership. Ethan's recommendation is that we wait and see how these things develop.

NEW BUSINESS:

- *Policy Updates – Haley Norberg*
 - *Policy 3.1.2 – Naming of University Property and Programs*

Policy 3.1.2 was presented for information only and has been posted for comments. The XC was in agreement to list the policy for information only on the November Senate agenda.

- *Faculty Review of President McFaddin*

The committee discussed how to divide the work on the report for the faculty review. Senators Marion and Kay will work on quantitative data and making the tables and charts. Senators Johnson, Jones, and Spira agreed to work on the qualitative data. Senators Bishop-Ross, McGuffin and Chair Crosby agreed to write the section on the comments. Each group will meet independently to work on their parts of the report. Senator Bishop-Ross and Chair Crosby volunteered to compile the two parts, once available, and provide a summary. After the meeting, Chair Crosby invited Senator Grabeel to work on the quantitative data with Senators Marion and Kay.

The final report is due to the Board on November 6th.

- *Discussion Items*
 - *Results of Faculty Survey on Vaccine Mandate*

Chair Crosby shared the data from the faculty survey on the vaccine mandate. Senator Nachtwey is working on a “curated” version of the data which will be shared with the Senate when available.

- *Announcements*

The Executive Committee approved Jenna Smith, SGA President, as a tentative guest speaker for the November Senate meeting. Chair Crosby asked the secretary to send her an invitation and to request that she be prepared to provide the students’ perspective on a possible vaccine mandate.

The Executive Committee requested that Beth Polin, Faculty Advocate, be invited to the November or December meeting to share with the Senate if faculty are utilizing her services and how the statistics for the Faculty Advocate position compare to those when an Ombud was on board.

REPORTS:**Standing Committees:**

- *Academic Quality Committee – Senator Kay*

The committee met earlier today and discussed narrowing down the focus on the charge to evaluate instruction on campus to something similar to a job task analysis in order to determine what faculty need now, such as technology needs, etc. We anticipate our first step will be to develop a faculty survey. Senator Sands plans to reach out to Rusty Carpenter to see what research may have already been done or to see if there are questions that he would like to see

included on the survey. In addition, we plan to work on a Footprints request to gather additional information. Chair Crosby particularly expressed interest in enrollment data for the various types of class formats offered.

- *Budget Committee – Senator Grabeel*
The Senate secretary shared that the committee will meet on October 25. No word yet if it will be an in-person meeting or via Zoom. The information will be posted on the website when available.
- *Elections & University Nominations Committee – Senator Spira*
The committee met on October 13 and discussed the charges for the year. At the November meeting the committee will address the charge to start the process for the upcoming Faculty Regent election which occurs in the Spring.
- *Faculty Welfare Committee – Senator Jones*
One of the topics at the last meeting was the faculty advocate position. We discussed possibly sending a survey to see if faculty are using the services of the faculty advocate. One thing that was mentioned was that information that was shared with the Ombud remained confidential while information shared with the faculty advocate can be shared. At the next meeting we'll be gathering questions for the survey.

One of the committee's standing charges is to review salary compression which varies greatly across campus. However, we are finding it difficult to get salary information. Regent Marion stated that former Chair Ciocca had to go through the open records request once before to get that information. Chair Crosby agreed to contact Provost Zeigler first to request the information. If she is unable to assist, then an open records request form can be submitted to the University Counsel's office.

The next meeting is November 2.

- *Information Technology Committee – Senator McGuffin*
No report as Senator McGuffin had to leave early.
- *Rules Committee – Senator Bishop-Ross*
Lisa Kay and I met yesterday to review all the changes that have been approved by Senate in the last few years to see what has and has not been updated in the Faculty Handbook. Once our committee reviews the approved changes, those will be forwarded to Jennifer Wies for inclusion in the Handbook.

We are still working on the revision to the 2019 information on faculty definitions which Faculty Senate approved. That information has never been sent out to the faculty-at-large. However, that is good as there are several changes that need to be made in that document. Once the revision is completed, it will be brought forward for Senate approval and then it will be shared with the faculty-at-large for consideration.

- *Ad Hoc Committee on OERs – Senator Marion*
The next meeting will be on Tuesday at 9am.

University Committees:

- *General Education Committee – Senator Kay*
The next meeting is on November 9 at 2pm. Chair Crosby volunteered to attend the meeting for Senator Kay, if needed.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:15pm.