

**Executive Committee Report**  
**October 2, 2023**  
**Lisa W. Kay, Faculty Senate Chair**

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met on September 25, 2023. After the approval of the April 2023 minutes and the Provost's report, the committee discussed the closure of the MA in History with Senator Todd Hartch. Since the Faculty Senate no longer votes on program closures, the committee suggested that the department seek more information and request that someone be permitted to represent the department at the next CAA meeting. Lauren Keeler provided an update on policies and regulations, and the committee asked questions regarding the proposal for the new regulation on university surveys. The committee discussed the draft of the policy/regulation portion of the new Faculty Handbook provided by Lauren Keeler and decided to work closely with the Rules Committee to develop the rest of the handbook (which some are referring to as the Faculty Addendum to the Employee Handbook). The committee approved the guest for the October Faculty Senate meeting, and announcements were made regarding the vacancies on the Budget Committee and Faculty Welfare Committee. Liaisons provided updates on committee work.

At our last Faculty Senate meeting, Senator Slijepcevic was asked about the cost of the choices for the next LMS. We are not able to disseminate that information because (1) the university has the opportunity to negotiate a final cost later, and (2) disclosing this information could potentially provide the vendors with details about their competitor's bids.

The Faculty Senate co-sponsored an event with the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning (FCT&L) on September 19<sup>th</sup>: "Lets Collaborate: Transdisciplinary Opportunities at ECU for Your Program and Students." We partnered with ECU Honors, ECU Graduate Profile, and the Office of Advising and Career Services. The event was well attended and generated a variety of ideas for potential collaborations.

Regent Marion, Vice Chair Blair, and I had a "Problem Solvers" meeting with the Provost earlier in September. Topics of discussion included the following:

- Areas in which Faculty Senate officially has input
- Issues impacting History faculty
- Biology salaries
- Parental leave policy
- Syllabus record retention
- Website photograph requirements
- Slate advising system concerns
- Student worker positions
- Rolling of summer grades for first-six-week courses
- Classroom reservations
- College recruiters
- Space relocation concerns
- Chautauqua Lecture Series and E3 programming
- Comments from the Faculty Senate Virtual Suggestion Box

We received an update on a past Problem Solvers topic from Holly Argo of the Graduate School. Thank you to everyone who worked on improving the admissions process for international students. The following changes to the admission process for graduate international applicants are being made:

- **English Language Requirement**
  - Per approval from Grad Council, starting spring 2024, graduate applicants could submit Duolingo exam scores to satisfy the English language requirement if they earned at least a 95 on the exam. The Duolingo exam is \$49 USD compared to the \$200+ USD for TOEFL or IELTS.
- **Declaration of Finance**
  - Starting this week, the declaration of finance will be required post-academic admission for **graduate students**. They will have a hold that prevents registration until they provide their scholarship or bank letters. Once submitted, the student will be able to register.
  - If the alternation of the graduate admissions process shows to be successful, undergraduate admissions will consider taking this approach. Currently, undergraduate international applicants will be required to submit the declaration of finance and bank or scholarship letters pre-admission.

Vice Chair Blair and I are serving on the 8KBY28 working group, which is which is drafting some initial plans for increasing the number of online students enrolled at ECU to 8000 by 2028. I have been tasked with assessing faculty needs for online instruction, and I am planning to hold at least one focus group session to gather information. I have reached out to faculty in all of the colleges to ask them to participate. If you have any input that you want to share, please contact Vice Chair Blair or me.

This Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, Vice Chair Blair is going to discuss the work of last year's Welfare Committee at a forum sponsored by the AAUP at 5:00 p.m. in Library 318 and on Zoom.

Vice Chair Blair and I have continued to read all of the comments received via the anonymous virtual suggestion box on the Faculty Senate website, and we are forwarding the suggestions to relevant individuals or committees. We recently received a request to share the comments or themes with the faculty. Here are some topics of recent comments:

- Compensation
- Benefits (e.g., prescription plan)
- Staffing
- Building maintenance
- Scheduling blocks of protected time (Note: Department chairs can do this.)
- Parking
- New branding guidelines
- Contracts for adjunct faculty
- Admission standards
- 8KBY28

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email Vice Chair Blair ([james.blair@ecu.edu](mailto:james.blair@ecu.edu)) or me ([lisa.kay@ecu.edu](mailto:lisa.kay@ecu.edu)).