

Executive Committee Minutes
Faculty Senate
January 22, 2024

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met remotely on Monday, January 22, 2024 at approximately 4pm via Zoom.

PRESENT: J. Blair, T. Couvillon, V. Grabeel, L. Jones, L. Kay, R. Lauk, J. Marion, S. McGuffin, and Sara Zeigler

ABSENT: G. Spira

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Senator Lauk moved approval of the November 20, 2023 minutes as written, seconded by Senator McGuffin. **Motion carried unanimously.**

REPORT FROM THE PROVOST: Sara Zeigler

The first day of the Provost Leadership Institute is this Friday at the Mulebarn. Whether or not you plan to [register](#) for the Institute, please consider joining us for the reception at 4:30pm in the Mulebarn.

A [google doc](#) has been created that lists all working groups that have significant academic applications. The document includes the charges as well as who's working on what project and how to provide input. Information on active drafting teams can be found on the [Policies](#) website.

With regard to the legislation, bills are dropping fast and action is moving pretty quickly. I've been working closely with Amy Scarborough to find a process where we can get faculty input--specifically on how the bills will affect our roles as faculty members, as educators, and how it will affect our ability to make our students successful. A small working group has been formed which meets via Zoom every Friday from 12 to 1pm. Dee Dee Kasitz, a member of my team, is compiling the information based on the input at the meeting. Chair Kay and Vice Chair Blair are serving on this work group as well as Mike Lane (CHS), Jade Robinson (CEAHS), and Ginny Whitehouse (CLASS). Mostly, we're looking for ways to anticipate how these bills could have a ripple effect, or unintended consequences, or intended consequences on our work, and to make sure that Amy is well prepared if she goes into a meeting or runs into a legislator that she has everything at her disposal to advocate effectively for us.

We are in the process of reviewing all of the faculty position requests. There are a lot of requests and we won't be able to fund them all, but we will fund as many as we possibly can. The Deans have submitted their request, and they are now in the process of doing rankings, and we will be having a conversation about that tomorrow. Hopefully, we will be able to get that to you within the next week or two, so that we can start early on the searches and get the best possible pool of candidates.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion Items

- *Internal Procedures*

Chair Kay shared the following sections of the Senate internal procedures for review: [Executive Committee, Chair, and Vice Chair](#). The revisions will be included with the February Executive Committee agenda for approval. Once approved, the updates will be

forwarded on to the Rules Committee for inclusion in their internal procedures updates for Senate approval.

- *Faculty Handbook*
Chair Kay announced that Rusty Carpenter has already written an introductory section for the faculty and Senator Bishop-Ross has added a number of links to the faculty section. She shared the [link](#) for the Google Doc and asked the committee members to review the information and to add any additional links needed. The group will review the information at the February Executive Committee meeting before forwarding on to Lauren Keeler for posting to the revised Employee Handbook.
- *Dizney Parking Lot Data*
Chair Kay reminded that in a prior meeting Senator Spira had mentioned that some faculty had concerns about the Dizney parking lot because there were rumors that some of those spots might be sold for reserve parking. Chair Kay decided to see if her 300-level class might be willing to take this on as a project to gather data on the usage of the parking spaces in the Dizney lot. So, her 300-level class, along with volunteers from the 200-level classes, gathered data on the usage of parking spaces for one week in October. During that week the lot was checked approximately every half hour from 8am until 4:30pm each day. The 300-level students analyzed the data and Chair Kay reviewed and made a few revisions. The finished [charts](#) were shared with Bryan Makinen and the Executive Committee. Based on the data, parking doesn't seem to be an issue in this lot at this time.

Announcements

- *Guest Speakers for Senate*
 - The following were approved as guest speakers for the February Senate meeting.
 - Camden Ritchie – SGA Update
 - Dana Fohl – University Counsel Briefing on Scholarships
 - Bryan Makinen - Reporting Building Issues (*approved by email post meeting*)

REPORTS:

- *Academic Quality Committee – Senator Blair*

The meeting for today was canceled. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 19.

- *Budget Committee – Senator Lauk*

The schedule is set for our spring meetings: February 26 and April 29 with VP Barry Poynter and Emily Watters and March 25 with Provost Sara Zeigler.

- *Faculty Welfare – Senator Jones*

The committee met last week and reviewed our internal procedures. The chair will forward any revisions to the Rules Committee.

- *Rights and Responsibilities Committee – Senator Couvillon*

Senator Couvillon agreed to serve as liaison between XC and the R&R Committee.

Chair Kay agreed to contact the committee to remind them to elect a new chair as John Brent is on sabbatical this semester and had to step down from Senate.

Other Reports

- *Senate Chair Report – Senator Kay*

In addition to the items discussed earlier, Vice Chair Blair and I continue to work with the 8KBY28 group, but no meetings have been scheduled yet this semester.

Lauren Keeler is finalizing comments received from the drafting team on the Grievance regulation and then that can move forward.

There have been a lot of comments coming through in the virtual suggestion box at the beginning of the semester. We've had a couple of complaints about how students can be first-day dropped and then they can add back in or they don't get dropped from Blackboard and they can still go in and work. Those were forwarded on to Registrar Shannon Tipton.

Another comment was received about the loud ding of the new elevator in Combs asking if the volume could be reduced. The request was forwarded on to Bryan Makinen. Senator Lauk updated that the technicians were able to lower the volume, so that issue has been resolved.

Vice Chair Blair shared that another comment just came through during our meeting talking about compensation and course overloads.

- *Faculty Regent Report - Senator Marion*

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 21.

Next year President McFaddin is due for his three-year evaluation. Chair Kay and Vice Chair Blair may want to start discussions on the faculty survey questionnaire in late spring. I have put together a tool very similar to the instrument which was used before and updated it for the current strategic plan that you may want to review. The Board will be meeting on November 14th this time, so that will mean a much shorter time frame for the Executive Committee to compile the survey data, write the summary, and submit to the Board for inclusion in their evaluation of the president.

Senator McGuffin asked what the Board's response was to the reported loss year-over-year of nine full-time faculty as was shared in the Regent's report last month.

Chair Kay stated that one of the Board members asked about faculty turnover at a previous meeting. As a result, the Provost asked Kerem Ozan Kalkan from Government

and Samuel Kakraba from Mathematics and Statistics to work on the faculty turnover data. Samuel has since left the University, but Kerem is still working on it. In reviewing the data, it was discovered that the Library faculty had not been included and Chair Kay contacted HR to get that information added back in. Hopefully, the report will be completed in time to submit for the February Board meeting. If so, Chair Kay plans to ask Provost Zeigler if the same presentation could also be shared with Senate.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6pm.