

Executive Committee Minutes
Faculty Senate
February 19, 2024

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met remotely on Monday, February 19, 2024 at approximately 4pm via Zoom.

PRESENT: J. Blair, T. Couvillon, L. Jones, L. Kay, R. Lauk, J. Marion, G. Spira, and S. Zeigler

ABSENT: V. Grabeel, S. McGuffin

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Senator Lauk moved approval of the January 22, 2024 minutes as written, seconded by Senator Couvillon. **Motion carried unanimously.**

REPORT FROM THE PROVOST: Sara Zeigler

Please be sure to read the Weekly Newsletter from the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning which contains lots of information about pedagogical support, opportunities to recognize yourself or your colleagues through faculty awards, as well as key activities that are happening in the studio and in the FCT&L.

April 9 is the application deadline to apply for the Provost Internship Program. Associate professors and above may apply.

There will be a listening session tomorrow from 1-3 p.m. in the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning and via Zoom regarding legislative activity and what's been going on in session. Amy Scarborough will be joining via Zoom. Please come and go as schedules permit.

There will also be a legislative update at the Provost Leadership Institute on Friday. Amy Scarborough will speak at 1015 a.m. over in the Mule Barn.

The curriculum regulation drafting team is hard at work. Their recommendations should be available by May. John Bowes is chairing that with support from Lauren Keeler in Counsel's office.

The program review process is undergoing some revisions in order to streamline the process and limit some of the work that faculty have to do to compile those reports. Unlike many institutions, we do a full review of every program that's up for review. We are looking at using some enrollment retention and graduation metrics to allow some programs to have an expedited review if everything is going well. Jennifer Wies will be releasing a little more information on that soon. There are also parts of the proposal that would add layers of reviews. In certain cases the Academic Quality Committee of Faculty Senate would be a reviewer in that process. In addition, representation on the university committee would change to include a representative from Senate and a representative from the Chairs Council.

We are still trying to work on how exactly to solicit nominations for faculty vacancies on university-level committees. For now, you can volunteer either through the chair of the committee or by communicating directly with Ryan Wilson.

NEW BUSINESS:*Discussion Items*

- *Honoring Dr. Martha Mullins*

Chair Kay was contacted by Bonnie Gray who asked the Senate to consider writing a resolution for Dr. Mullins who recently passed away. Dr. Mullins was a long time faculty member and coach who contributed a lot of documents to the library, and also did a lot of work with Title IX. There will be an event on April 9th to honor Dr. Mullins. As the Senate has never done this type of request, Chair Kay suggested instead that she could send an announcement to faculty to encourage their participation in the upcoming event.

- *Senate Schedule for 2024-2025*

As the Senate showed interest in hybrid meetings at the last meeting, Provost Zeigler shared that the Grise and Ferrell rooms in the Combs Building are being renovated and will be outfitted for hybrid meetings for larger groups. This will be funded through the Assets Preservation Funds. The project is expected to be completed by the fall semester.

The Executive Committee determined that as there may be delays in the completion of the Grise and Ferrell rooms, the meetings for next year will be half in-person and half via Zoom as was voted on at the last Senate meeting. In addition, the committee approved the following dates for in-person meetings: September 9, November 4, March 3, and May 5. The scheduling of hybrid meetings can be addressed the following year after completion of the renovations.

- *Revised Internal Procedures for Chair, Vice Chair, and Executive Committee*

The Executive Committee reviewed the updates proposed by Chair Kay. Senator Jones moved to approve the revisions, seconded by Senator Couvillon. **Motion carried.**

- *Faculty Handbook*

Chair Kay announced that the updates for the faculty handbook will not be ready for review until the April Executive Committee meeting.

Announcements

- *Guest Speakers for Senate*

- The following were approved as guest speakers for the March Senate meeting.
 - Camden Ritchie – SGA Update
 - Bryan Makinen, Jessica Miesmer, Jill Price – New Space Utilization Initiative on Campus
 - Ryan Baggett, Rusty Carpenter – New Faculty-Compensated (Re)Development

REPORTS:

- *Academic Quality Committee – Senator Blair*

The meeting earlier today was cancelled.

Senator Stevenson is partnering with Dr. Michelle Smith in Statistics to work on the data available on DFW rates. A group of students in Dr. Smith's class will run different analyses and tables on the data set in order to provide a better understanding.

Also, Senator Buck is working on a memo to request that students who are parents be added to the list of special groups who can register sooner for classes in an effort to help alleviate issues with child care as well as other concerns.

- *Budget Committee – Senator Lauk*

An email received through the Virtual Suggestion Box raised a concern about coaches and individuals with performance bonuses of one type or another. As a follow up to that email, Senator Lauk made an open records request to get the complete list of every employee who receives some type of performance bonuses.

The next meeting is set for Monday, February 26 with VP Barry Poynter.

- *Elections & University Nominations Committee – Senator Spira*

The committee reviewed our internal procedures and the revisions have been forwarded on to Senator Bishop-Ross on the Rules Committee

The committee has started the preliminary work on the adjunct faculty election. A letter was drafted to the department chairs asking for nominations and Chair Kay has already sent that out. So far only three chairs have responded.

Chair Kay suggested that she could also send a memo to the adjunct faculty list to see who else might be interested in being on the ballot. A list could then be created for those who respond to be shared with the chairs to make sure those folks are actually eligible to participate.

- *Faculty Welfare – Senator Jones*

The next meeting is scheduled for this Thursday.

- *Rights and Responsibilities Committee – Senator Couvillon*

The new co-chairs are Senator Ginn and Senator Slijepcevic.

The meetings for the semester are scheduled for 1pm via Zoom on February 20, March 21, April 18, and May 2.

University Committees

- *University General Education Committee – Vice Chair Blair*

The General Education Committee met and reviewed proposals from CLASS and STEM. Both of those were voted on and approved.

The committee also revised competencies and criteria as well as skill updates.

There was also discussion about the differences between our general education program and other programs. We currently offer 36 hours of general education credits whereas a lot of our like partners in the community colleges only offer 30 hours. Most of our discussion centered on whether we should lower the number of hours in our program.

Matt Winslow is scheduled to give a presentation to the group on Thursday, March 7.

Other Reports

- *Senate Chair Report – Senator Kay*

Dana Fohl has suggested some additional changes to the Grievance regulation. The working group will meet on Thursday, February 22 at 3:30pm to discuss those.

Lots of things are coming in to the virtual suggestion box and those are being forwarded to the appropriate individuals. As the suggestion box is anonymous, Chair Kay plans to create a google doc to share which lists all the suggestions and responses received so that folks know that their comments are being heard.

The Board of Regents will be evaluating the president next year. As such, the Executive Committee needs to review the faculty questionnaire and decide on the timeline to follow in order to have the faculty survey completed and their report written in time to submit to the Board for review prior to the completion of the Board's evaluation. Chair Kay asked Regent Marion to share the draft of the questionnaire that he recently revised.

Regent Marion plans to invite Chair Eaves to be a guest at the May Senate meeting. He will let us know later if Chair Eaves is available to attend.

Chair Kay would like to recognize Dr. Richard Crosby at the May meeting if he's available to attend. Dr. Crosby will be retiring from the university at the end of June.

- *Faculty Regent Report - Senator Marion*

The next meeting of the Board will be on Wednesday, February 21.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6pm.