

**Faculty Senate
Rules Committee Minutes**

Date: November 13, 2023

Location: Zoom at <https://eku.zoom.us/j/92746467107?pwd=bjhjaTBYakdjZUk3RnIDS3NXWnZKdz09>.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 3:36 p.m. by Senator Bishop-Ross.

Attendance:

Senators Rachel Bishop-Ross, Melissa Dieckmann, Marie Manning, Laura Rowe, and Curtis Streetman were in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

Senator Streetman moved to approve the minutes, Senator Rowe seconded. Minutes were approved.

Unfinished Business:

Spring Meeting Dates

Since the internal procedures changes from other committees are due to the committee chair on January 31, we will not meet in January. The remaining meetings for the year will be on the following Mondays: February 19, March 18, and April 15 at 3:30 p.m.

Budget Committee

Senator Lauk noted that the internal procedures for the Budget Committee (<https://facultysenate.eku.edu/internal/budget>) indicate that “the committee... will meet with the President at least once each semester to receive information about budgetary matters” and later in the internal procedures that “The Chair also serves on the President’s Administrative Council.” It is also noted that this second statement regarding the membership of the Senate Budget Committee Chair on this presidential budget committee is reflected in Part VII of the Faculty Handbook in Section E, part 4c.

Senator Lauk reached out to Dr. Ryan Wilson in the President’s Office to determine if these two internal procedures were still happening in practice. Dr. Wilson responded that the President’s Administrative Council was put in place by President Whitlock and had not been in existence since 2012-13.

The committee indicated that while this specific Administrative Council may not exist, an analogous committee is still used by the President. The committee could not remember the exact name of this committee but that it may be the Budgetary Advisory Committee to the President. The Rules Committee recommends that the wording in Part VII, Section E, part 4c of the Faculty Handbook be changed to reflect the current name of the presidential budget committee. Senator Streetman indicated that the previous chair of the Senate Budget Committee, Dr. Don Yow, attended this Budgetary Advisory Committee, but the committee

points out that being in attendance for the meeting is not the same as being a member of said committee.

The Committee noted confusion in the language of the internal procedures for the Senate Budget Committee. Specifically, the section labeled “In August” reads as follows:

*Elect a committee chair/co-chairs and secretary and inform the Faculty Senate Chair and Secretary. **The Chair also serves on the President's Administrative Council.** Set monthly meeting day, time, and venue for Fall and Spring and inform the Faculty Senate Chair and Secretary for posting to the Faculty Senate webpage.*

The highlighted sentence above is different in kind from the rest of the internal procedures which describe the action items for the committee throughout the academic year. The committee recommends that this sentence be removed from the section labeled “In August” and moved to the first paragraph of the internal procedures that describe the purpose of the committee. With the highlighted sentence above moved to this paragraph, the opening paragraph would read as follows:

*The purpose of the Budget Committee shall be to provide a channel of communication between the Faculty Senate and the Administration on matters relating to the formulation of the University budget. The committee shall be available as an advisory agency to the President of the University in those matters relating to the budget-formulation process and will meet with the President at least once each semester to receive information about budgetary matters. **The Chair also serves on the President's Administrative Council.***

There was no response regarding the practice of having the Senate Budget Committee meet with the President at least once each semester.

Organization of the Faculty (Part VII of the Faculty Handbook)

Senator Dieckmann reviewed the language in this part of the faculty handbook as well as the language posted on the Faculty Senate webpage. Senator Dieckmann noted discrepancies in the task given to us by Senate Chair Kay – to remove archaic language like “shall” from the document – and the use of said archaic language in the Faculty Senate webpage. Additionally, Senator Dieckmann expressed confusion regarding the structure of the online faculty handbook and asked Senator Bishop-Ross to seek clarification from the Executive Committee regarding what the online faculty handbook will look like upon completion and where the non-linked verbiage will go on the webpage. The current status of the online handbook is just a list of links that seem redundant to policies.eku.edu, and it is difficult to recommend changes when the overall structure of the handbook is not clear.

The Faculty Handbook Links

The committee wonders if we can/should work on a FAQ to be put in the online Faculty Handbook. We envision the handbook to be like a Big E Central for faculty, but there is concern among the committee that the links will lead to the correct places. It was noted that it is currently easier to find information on EKU’s website using a Google search rather than an EKU Search due to the flaws in our own search engine. The committee would like to ask Rusty and

Shirley what spaces and places they need to know quickly as a guideline for the links that should be included/highlighted in the online Faculty Handbook. The committee feels that the Faculty Handbook should have links to the departmental P&T policies and tenured faculty evaluations for transparency purposes, but there are concerns about posting these policies in the current anti-tenure atmosphere in the Kentucky legislature.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be on Monday, February 19, 3:30-4:30 p.m. via Zoom:
<https://eku.zoom.us/j/94440988564?pwd=TUpDclJ2SHFlejV2RXl2Ty9wcGI3dz09>.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by Senator Bishop-Ross at 4:37 p.m.