

**Minutes for the Faculty Senate**

**Meeting #5 Spring 2023**

**Wednesday, March 29, 2023**

**Hybrid (Russell 100 or Zoom), 3:00-4:30 PM CST**

**ATTENDING**

*Laura Atchely*

*Meg Cotter-Lynch*

*Chris Moretti*

*Cody Bogard*

*Amy Gantt*

*Rob Shauger*

*Kathy Boothe*

*Srimal Garusnghe*

*Matthew Sparacio*

*Brandon Burnette*

*Ashley Hampton*

*Randy Clark*

*Andy Kramer*

**ABSENCES**

*Steve Csaki*

*Jeri Walker*

*Mila Zhu*

*Amy Mills*

*Doug Wood*

*Kate Shannon*

*Frank Xu*

I. Call to Order – 3:11 PM [[Past Chair Clark presiding in place of Chair Shannon]]

II. Minutes from March 8, 2023

a) **MOTION TO APPROVE** the Minutes from March 8, 2023 – Senator Kramer

i) **SECOND** – Senator Cotter-Lynch

ii) **DISCUSSION** – n/a

iii) **VOTE** – Yea 10; Nay 0; Abstaining 0; passes unanimously.

III. Guest Presentation: Blake Allen (Director of Marketing) + Michele Hornbeck

a) Topic: How Marketing can support Faculty!

i) Marketing works closely with Dan Hoke (photographer) and Alan Burton (press releases) to create materials to help with recruitment and public messaging. The department works very closely with admissions and recruitment.

ii) Marketing oversees the University website. In addition, it administers the five SE social media platforms and the “Explore Southeastern” accounts.

- (1) *REQUEST*: faculty should take ownership of their pages – let Marketing know if something needs to be updated/troubleshoot. You can do this by contacting them directly at [webupdates@se.edu](mailto:webupdates@se.edu).
- (2) The SE website is a big piece of the HLC accreditation process. Faculty should definitely consider updating their bios!
- iii) Marketing oversees digital, radio, and print advertising as well as licensing and branding (contracted with CLC) for t-shirts or apparel.
- b) Overall message: Marketing is here to support faculty and staff to help with branding, recruiting, or anything else!

#### IV. HLC Conference Report from Senator Cotter-Lynch (FS Representative)

- a) Three big take-aways:
  - i) Lots of discussion about on-going and potential conflict between state laws and accreditation requirements. Institutions must remain committed to freedom of expression for accreditation.
    - (1) Peer reviewer responsibility is to the accreditation criteria, **NOT** state law.
    - (2) Don't know what future review criteria will be. There seems to be a push to strengthen language for academic freedom. Newest version of criteria will be released in 2025. These are ongoing discussions.
      - (a) *DISCUSSION*: Should we draft a resolution in support of academic freedom?
        - (i) From an accreditation standpoint, we are in good shape. Shared governance is also a large part of accreditation. As a Senate we can also provide public feedback to HLC.
        - (ii) HLC does not care what you call it, but institutions do need to have DEI initiatives. It is too early to know if these laws are just political grandstanding, or laws taken seriously.
        - (iii) We need to keep an eye on this.
  - ii) Open Educational Resources (OER)
    - (1) Cheaper for students. Strong data indicates that students enrolled in classes with OER enroll in \*more\* credit hours in following semesters. This could make a “demonstrable” difference for our students, who are often financially constrained.
    - (2) Institutions invest lots of money to compensate faculty for vetting, collecting, and developing these kinds of resources. The FS must consider this in light of recent Strategic Plan unveiling pushing for more OER.
      - (a) Senator Kramer: There are grant opportunities around using OER in your classroom. This link was for last year but I am sure we can locate some opportunities for this upcoming academic year:
   
<https://www.ocolearnok.org/oer-101-training-completion-grants/>
  - iii) Chat GPT

- (1) Overall tenor of this conversation was to view this as a *tool* and not a *threat*.  
There is no point in trying to invest in “policing” software at this moment.
- (2) “How do we teach our students how to use this resource effectively?” We need to focus our energy on teaching our students how to ask good questions.
  - (a) Analogies made to calculators.

#### V. Treasurer’s Report

- a) No report.

#### VI. Committee Reports

##### a) Budget Committee (BC)

- i) No report.

##### b) Committee on Committees (CoC)

- i) No report on file; however, the faculty committee survey was closed on Friday March 24. CoC is beginning to fill vacancies.

##### c) Executive Committee (EC) (report on file for Meeting with President and VPAA)

###### i) Progress on Compensation Proposal

- (1) Not much to report on. The Business Office did not have a Cost Analysis ready for him before the meeting on March 20. President Newsom did offer the following:

- (a) He agrees with the proposal and the rationale behind it. However, he admitted that the university will not be able to implement all of proposal at once. Finding more revenue is the primary concern.
- (b) As part of the first request, he asked the Business Office what can be fed into the preexisting budget as a mandatory cost increase.
- (c) He noted that the amount of state allocations we can expect for next years’ budget is still very much up in the air.

###### (2) Presidential Announcements

- (a) Several construction projects have been delayed by the weather (incl. Rodeo).

##### d) Personnel Policies Committee (PPC)

- i) Did not meet.

- (1) PPC Chair has received email from Marjorie Robertson to look over an updated salary card based on BC/PPC proposal. Still in the process of reviewing.

##### e) Planning Committee (PC)

- i) Votes are in for each school, and PC will review the results and send awards to the print shop next week.
- ii) Some individuals nominated for the lifetime achievement award were not eligible due to tenure requirements. The link will be sent out to vote for this award on April 10.

f) University Affairs Committee (UAC)

i) No report.

## VII. Old Business

a) Reactions to Shared Governance Forum on March 21, 2023 (Strategic Plan Unveiling)

i) Strategic Plan is available here: <https://www.se.edu/strategicplan/>

(1) Take away on compensation: no one believes that there will be any movement.

(2) The on-campus experience is still predominantly online – a lot of concern. This is not the President’s fault, but programs and departments that have created these circumstances.

(a) *DISCUSSION*: There may have been a disconnect in tenor between comments in the executive committee meeting and the wider shared governance forum.

## VIII. New Business

a) Shared Governance Forum Dates

i) April 11, 2023 at 2 PM (Faculty still needs to choose this topic)

(1) In the Executive Committee Meeting with President Newsom and VPAA Golden, the President voiced his support of having Chat GPT be the topic of the remaining faculty-led Shared Governance Forum.

(a) *DISCUSSION*: Does not fit as a topic according to APPM. In addition there is no real action that we can take as faculty members. We cannot start incorporating policy around it because it is still evolving.

(b) *COUNTERPOINT*: This is a shared governance topic because we do need to look at policy. We need to see if it accommodates – we need to have the conversation about update.

(i) Is this a shared governance forum if we define shared governance as including students? We can use this to introduce and address problems: here are questions that we need to work on. What are the concerns? What steps can we take? Is policy and professional development up to date?

(ii) As teachers, the expectation is that students we instruct will be proficient in it. Students need to know how to use it \*ethically\*.

(iii) We cannot allow this to be left to the department level. There will be too many inconsistencies for students. We need to have these conversations *earlier* rather than later. We also need intentional faculty development on this topic.

(2) Senate Chair ultimately is responsible for choosing the topic.

(a) Proposed Title: “*A Conversation on Specific Areas of Concern with ChatGPT*”

(i) Panelists: Rob Shauger, Andy Kramer, Mila Zhu; Moderator: Kate Shannon

- (ii) We encourage Senators and their departmental colleagues not in the Senate to email questions for panelists directly to Chair Shannon.

IX. Announcements

- a) n/a

X. Adjournment – 4:14 PM CST

- a) **MOTION TO ADJOURN** – Senator Kramer
- b) **SECOND** – Senator Shauger