

Agenda for Faculty Senate

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Meeting 4, Fall 2023

Russell 100 or Zoom <https://se-edu.zoom.us/j/97473144940>

Meeting ID: 974 7314 4940

3:00-4:30 p.m.

Attendance

Kate Shannon
Andy Kramer
Chris Morretti
Kyle C. Lincoln
Sondra Petty
B. Steve Csaki
Stanley Aluisi
Meg Cotter-Lynch
Gamage Garusinghe
Jeni Maple
Amy Gantt
Frank Xu
Dena Rymel (Guest)
Sarah Morrison
Fendrich Clark
Jayanna Greenwood
Laura Atchley
Amy Mills

- I. Call to Order
SENCHAR calls to order at 15:00

- II. Minutes from October 4, 2023
MCL moves to approve; JM seconds.
Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved. Some questions about the availability of the materials, but this was a Canvas fault for which SENCHAR has apologized, but this was rejected in good humor. 12 in favor of approval; 1 abstained; no rejected.

- III. Treasurer's Report
TRES has no report.

- IV. Committee Reports
 - A. Budget Committee
BUDCOM has not met; no report.

 - B. Committee on Committees
COMCOM has not met; no report. Meeting suggested for first week of November.

 - C. Executive Committee
EXCOM met on 10 October to organize the SGF. EXCOM received new drafts of the HLC documentation, and based feedback on the documentation at the SGF held 17 October. The feedback was sent to the AVPAA and VPAA to prepare a meaningful dialogue. SENCHAR conveys her thanks to the EXCOM for their hard work and the positive results that came as a byproduct. SENCHAR offers applause and heart-emoji to support the EXCOM.

 - D. Personnel Policies Committee
PPCOM has not met; no report.

 - E. Planning Committee
PLANCOM has not met; no report.

 - F. University Affairs Committee
UACOM met and has divvied up the charge pieces to subdivide. Another meeting is scheduled for 30 Oct and Minutes are uploaded to Canvas.

- V. Old Business
 - A. Shared Governance Forum (10.16.2023) Feedback

SGF was held 17 October, with minutes and created documentation being uploaded and curated by SENARCH. SENARCH notes that it will be posted to the Shared Governance and the Senate pages. Some questions about the availability of these elements, which have been directed to be included in the News Brief. Some felt a bit of condescension about the HLC draft and the role of faculty compared to administrators. In the aftermath, some report that the VPAA was pleased with the amount of transparency in the process and that not everyone needs to contribute or participate in every part of the document and the process that is created. Some senators note that the amount of OSHRE/RUSO material felt *pro forma* and that the hyper-inclusion of those elements was an artifact of the format and the process. This reflects some of the artificiality of the document, which may have obscured how much of the work of committee functions contributes to the wider documents (like the APPM). SENCHAR reflects that some parts of the APPM's guidance might be a venue for some of the committee product to tilt the norms in the APPM so that it is better reflective of the lived experience of the faculty. MCL suggests that chair elections in the Spring would obviate some of problems of delivering on the potential of the committees. FC notes that the challenge of timeliness of work product is not just a student issue, but that faculty need to realize the potential of the committees in practice. This is especially difficult because deadlines and workloads are already at odds. KS notes that some of the centrifugal drift in Senate service is particularly problematic given the impact of the oversight work that might benefit from greater engagement. MCL suggests that some departments have different expectations about committee services that may inflect some of the challenges with commitment of service work. KS notes that Department Chairs should be encouraged to recommit their faculty to service commitments. AK notes that the Spring SGF should perhaps be focused on the notion of service committees as essential. CM notes that the Faculty Development Agreements include committee service, so there is a notional connection but only if chairs actually make those questions actionable. AK notes that there may be some additional support for this through the involvement of Deans. MCL notes that the Chair, Dean, and VPAA are supposed to follow the recommendations of the faculty unless there is significant cause to contradict those pieces. KS notes that satisfying service requirements is a key element of defending both shared governance and academic freedom. (KL nominates himself, in jest, to be Dean of Deans.) SP notes that, within faculty development agreements, there are signature-bound plans for service requirements. KS notes that some work from the MMG has devoted attention to the service component. MCL notes that *pro forma* inclusion is only that way because more Senators didn't involve themselves, not because there was an effort to disinclude faculty.

- B. APPM Draft feedback was submitted to VPAA Golden (10.10.2023)
KS notes that significant feedback was offered for the Deans elements, and these were communicated and fed through the Canvas portal.

- VI. New Business
No new business is reported.

XII. Announcements

SP notes that the campus Democrats are changing some affiliations, mostly for organizational purposes. SP asks for some advertising assistance to ensure political participation among students. SP also notes that Connor Alford is the advisor for the College GOP. SP asks for guidance as a faculty advisor for clubs.

FC notes that the Honors Business Professional Speaking class has a debate tournament as a way of actualizing argumentation and public speaking. Several faculty have volunteered to judge in the tournament, FC asks for the continued volunteering support upon invitation via email in the coming weeks.

KS advertises that the Mutual Mentoring Group is sponsoring a SOTL conference on 8 December. The goal is to build outward from the university to include regional participants.

KL notes that the Middlebury Language Schools are accepting applications starting on 1 November, and that our students are a particularly attractive population for Middlebury, both in terms of admission and funding.

XIII. Adjournment

Call to adjourn the meeting at 15:40 by AK. Seconded by KL.