

Minutes for Faculty Senate  
Wednesday, November 29, 2023  
Meeting 7, Fall 2023  
3:00-4:30 p.m.

Attendees

**Kyle C. Lincoln, Stan Aluisi, Kate Shannon, Sondra Petty, Donald Robert Fox, Amy Gantt, Chris Moretti, Meg Cotter-Lynch, Carol Sullivan, Steve Csaki, Jenni Maple, Sarah Morrison, Andy Kramer, Laura Atchley, Ganage Garusinghe, Mila Zhu, Aaron Adair, Fendrich Clark, Jayanna Greenwood, Amy Mills, Ian Gerg**

1. Call to Order

**KS calls to order at 3:00**

2. Minutes from November 1, 2023 and November 15th, 2023

**AK moves to approve; MCL seconds.**

**November 1: No discussion. 12 in favor; 1 abstaining; none opposed.**

**AK moves to approve; SP seconds.**

**November 15: Small corrections. 12 in favor; 1 abstaining; none opposed.**

3. Treasurer's Report

**No report.**

**Question: has the allocation for the awards and budget been fixed because of the shift?**

**Answer: budgets should be only 75% of the amount, so theoretically, we shouldn't go over and the holdover should not have been transferred. Meeting with Crystal Cheek floated as an idea, in order to help resolve the confusion/discrepancies.**

4. Committee Reports

a. Budget Committee

**Meeting scheduled with PPC to convene a Salary Card Working Group. Members present at the HLC meetings and events. One HLC reviewer asked about the BC's role in the budgetary process, but BC has not been regularly involved in the discussions prior to 2020, in part because of the work posed by the earlier Salary Card Working Group.**

**MCL notes that the Honors program hasn't gotten the Request for Budget Requests yet, which suggests that the BC hasn't been left out of the budgetary process because it might not have started yet.**

**BC notes that VP Westman has been encouraging about the involvement of the committee, but that opportunity has yet to be realized. KS notes that there used**

to be a calendar that sketched what parts of the budget should receive input relative from programs and departments.

SP asks about how much Faculty Senate is consulted about major purchases relative to curricular or teaching elements. General response is that no input has been sought or offered, but this was also a kind of “don’t ask, don’t tell” problem that created a culture of silence about those kinds of purchases.

KS notes that, in some instances, software purchases (e.g.) are consulted by the Distance Education Council, but these are occasional and coincidental. The headway that might be met should perhaps be included in a future “Policy on Policies” question that shapes how and when faculty are involved in purchases, for example.

MCL asks if that the Big Budget Spreadsheet has been shared with Treasurer; BC notes that no copy has been forthcoming. BC has made a note to request the material formally so that he can gather more data.

BC asks about whether there used to be a process in the decision to add Civitas. KS notes that there were allocations made from Academic Affairs and the decision was made to use pre-allowed funding on that front. Discussion led to the larger task assigned to discover, using budget forms, to find out the actual budgetary allocation for that cost.

b. Committee on Committees

FC notes that the new AAPM versions, as well as certain website, has a different nomenclature for “General Faculty Committees and Councils” and “University Committees” but the two seem interchangeable. Different categories and names are used to designate how the groups are appointed and defined memberships. FC notes that the appointment of some memberships creates overlap and commits to making these differences and distinctions more clear and more meaningful. FC notes that the requirement is to schedule a meeting for each council. The current list of members and chairs is up-to-date at the present. FC commends AK for updating the sites.

New Appointments need to be voted on as part of the appropriate process for ratification.

**Omnibus Ratification Motions**

-Jeni Maple is appointed as Coordinator of BSLAS Committee

-Joshua Held is appointed to the English Education for the Teacher Education Council

-Shareen Hosseini is appointed to the ME for Instrumental Music for the Teacher Education Council

Votes: 17 in favor; 0 opposed; 0 abstaining.

c. Executive Committee

**EXCOM met to organize the agenda, reflect on the HLC Visit, PTR policy conversations, and to share concerns about the role played retention of junior faculty as a potential crunch-factor for future chairs and leadership development. One of the key elements that was routinely discussed was how the election process for chairs is followed or not; whether they are appointed or elected without opposition. Effectively, the concern is that the process has stalled out in developing the crop of leadership candidates among junior and mid-career faculty. BC notes that perhaps the “one candidate election” problem is a problem that chairmanship is unrewarded and a problem of not having a critical mass of tenure-track faculty. This presents a real threat to academic freedom and the retention of scholarly faculty that are able to take and supported in leadership. Hiring and retention crunches since 2016 have been exacerbated by both salary card problems and the long hangover of those kinds of deflationary pressures. These problems, the consensus held, that there might be a long term problem made worse.**

**Question: FC asks that the first topic of the Shared Governance Forum in the Spring be focused on the role of chairs. KL asks a modest amendment that the goal be on Faculty Leadership Development. FC approves this amendment to his request.**

**Answer: KS notes that this is an excellent topic.**

d. Personnel Policies Committee

**PPC has not met since last Senate Meeting. PPC has joined the BC together in formulating a Salary Card Working Group. PPC has made a list of information requests to help work-flow development, the top 2 being: 1) Salary Card; 2) Compare Policy and Practice on Chair selection. MCL notes that there are also questions about compensation for leadership. PPC is hoping that the information that they receive will be meaningfully impactful.**

e. Planning Committee

**The Call for Nominations is now out Faculty Senate Awards and will remain open through Feb 15 at 5:00. Some improvements have been made to streamline the form, and some updates have been made to the list of candidates.**

**KS asks about the process for drumming up nominees. She suggests that Canvas broadcasts might help expand the amount of nominees, too, so that faculty deserving of recognition can receive it. MZ notes that the LMS has that function, but that there is a certain limitation on how that works, and has made a note to make that happen effectively.**

- f. University Affairs Committee  
**LLA notes that UAC did not meet during the break. It may be the case that the UAC might put off its next meeting to the beginning of the following semester.**
- 5. Old Business  
**No Old Business.**
- 6. New Business
  - a. HLC Visit  
**Some feedback about the problems of scheduling relative to the next visit about stacking meeting during class days should put the most important meetings during less-prime classes or doing the visit on a day when classes are not happening. Some questions about the involvement imbalance of the in-person/remote student engagement. There were also serious concerns about the balance between honesty with the reviewers versus loyalty to the institution.**
- 7. Announcements
  - a. First meeting for Spring – January 17th at 3 pm in R100 and via Zoom.  
**Approved for distribution. Spring Semester Schedule forthcoming thereafter. Dates for SGF's sometime in February and March are working through that segment of the campus.**
  - b. Mutual Mentoring Teaching and Learning Conference – December 8th from 2 – 4:30 pm in Russell. Schedule coming soon.  
**Shameless plug by KS.**
  - c. **Faculty Senate Lunch on Monday (11 December) and Tuesday (12 December) during the lunch times.**
  - d. **Sondra Petty congratulated for OPSA Teacher of the Year award.**
- 8. Adjournment  
**Adjournment approved at 4:23.**