

Minutes for Faculty Senate
Wednesday, January 31, 2024
3:00-4:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Kyle C. Lincoln
Sarah Morrison
Sondra Petty
Andy Kramer
Kate Shannon
Chris Moretti
Amy Gantt
Amy Mills
Gamage Garusinghe
Jenni Maple
Laura J. Lamb Atchley
Ian Gerg
F. Randy Clark
Michelle Burton
B. Steve Csaki
Jayanna Greenwood
Tim Smith
Carol Sullivan
Guests: Robert Shauger, Dena Rymel; Michelle Burton; Lauran Fuller

- I) Call to Order
KS called to order at 15:01.

- II) Minutes from January 17, 2024
Motion by FC, seconded by AK. No discussion of adjustment.
Accepted unanimously.

- III) Treasurer's Report
Error made for some funding of awards; BC has corrected it, and will use it to trace process challenges relative to the allocation of awards budgeting. BC notes that his email to VP Westman and Christal Cheek was returned, but the meeting generated from these emails is scheduled for next week.

- IV) Committee Reports

- a. Budget Committee
No additional report.

- b. Committee on Committees
No report.

- c. Executive Committee
EXCOM met with VPAA Golden and PRES Newsom. These concerns related to the Compensation question, concerns about Advising processed, and concerns about the Rank and Shared Governance Forum. There are several layers to the Civitas process, although this was delayed in part because of the transition to Canvas. Advising concerns are still being adjusted over time, but the changes to advising will take time. There are also ongoing changes to registrar's office and there are ongoing questions about the continuity of advising.
Preliminary invitation extended to AVPAA Shields about answering questions. FC notes that it is fair and appropriate to note that the Canvas roll-out was prioritized over Civitas. This was problematic, since it was paid for and not deployed yet. CM notes that the Senate has questions, which should be asked to Shields: 1) What are those implementing Civitas *assuming* we are already doing? 2) What additional labor are those implementing Civitas/Canvas integration asking us to do? 3) How long should this also take as additional labor to make the system work?
BC suggests a fourth question be added: 4) What is the predicted ROI for Civitas and when is the payoff for the added labor?
FC notes that the implementation or requirement of Canvas use for courses might be required but that is a process.
CM updates the Senate about his demographic/longevity research.
SGF about Faculty Demographics, leadership development and mid-career retention: 21 February.
PPC/BUDGCOM is meeting 15 March.

- d. Personnel Policies Committee
No report.

- e. Planning Committee
Nominations closing next Monday, and committee meeting thereafter.

- f. University Affairs Committee
Meeting being scheduled.
KS asked about reaching out to SGA for input about advising.

V) Old Business

No Old Business needing.

VI) New Business

- a. Ad Hoc Committee has been formed to investigate options for identifying and reporting AI driven cheating – members – Petty, Gerg, and Kramer
Report received for nominations.
CIDT has asked to be involved with this committee, specifically Alisha Ridenour and Christala Smith.
KL suggests that KS accept them to the *ad hoc* committee, waiving the usual requirement of full-time status to Senate *ad hoc* committees.
- b. Advising Concerns – New developments – Bisson moving to Registrar position.
Restructuring of advising on the horizon (Cotter-Lynch).
Noted for the record.
- c. Student workers – funding issue – students are being let go (Cotter-Lynch)
Student worker budgets were not adjusted for the 23-24 budget to adjust for new budgeting, there was also supposed to be a quarantine between the funding for work study allotments and regular campus employment. The exhaustion of that budgeted amount has led to student layoffs or hour-cuts. Possibly this was caused by a changeover in staffing in the finance offices.
Student-workers are sometimes being retained on a case-by-case bases, but this might also suggest wider-spread problems.
- d. Organized Research processes (Gerg)
Discussion made out of order, but accepted without objection.
IG has started asking questions about the way that Organized Research funding is distributed, how the order is processed. The meeting schedule (once each semester) might need reform to ensure and encourage more regular research productivity and conference.
AK notes that previous conversations had made clear that equal distribution would be impractical, KS notes that shifting to the current process would be based on rewarding scholars who are working on funding. GG notes that he, as chair of the committee, will explore why and how the process originated and how the meeting schedule might be shaped. GG further commits to bringing those notes back to the Senate as a whole.
FC asks for clarification about IG's questions' core concern, IG notes that the timing, rather than the amount of funding, are the key elements for his concern.
AG notes that there are some wrinkles for the process, since the hurdles are sometimes inhibiting for scholarly activity.
(SP asks about the other elements of the presentation/publication costs for articles, and how that could be fit in to the Organized Research policy, which is

different from what IG asked about.)

GG notes that the distribution of funding for publication is different, but he commits to asking questions about the process at the next meeting.

KS notes that the funding balance between the two halves of the year may need revision. KS further notes that the committee could restructure the process, based on the APPM, and that some obstacles are being encountered.

Continued and extensive discussion about second funding applications for annual cycles, how they might be made more manageable with more frequent deadlines to make things work.

SM asked about a conference that comes after the fiscal year or about the earliness.

KS notes that she will reach out to VPAA Golden to ask more questions about the process and its reform possibilities; GG makes a similar note to ask questions. GG notes that 40 applicants or so come in September; 10-15 apply in Spring.

- e. McCurtain County Campus (K. Gross) - scheduled to speak on February 14th
Noted for the record.

VII) Announcements

- a. Shared Governance Forums – February 21st at 3 pm– Faculty Senate Topic; March 12th at 2 pm – Administration Topic

Noted for the record.

- b. OSRHE Faculty Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FACOpinion23> complete by 2/28/2024.

Faculty encouraged to take the survey.

- c. **Study Abroad Office encourages Fulbright candidates to be sent their way.**

VIII) Adjournment

Motion made at 16:13 by AK, Seconded by BC at 16:14.