



Faculty Senate NEWS BRIEF

The purpose of the Faculty Senate *News Brief* is to keep faculty informed about Faculty Senate meetings. Agendas and minutes of meetings can be accessed by clicking on the [Faculty Senate Homepage](#).

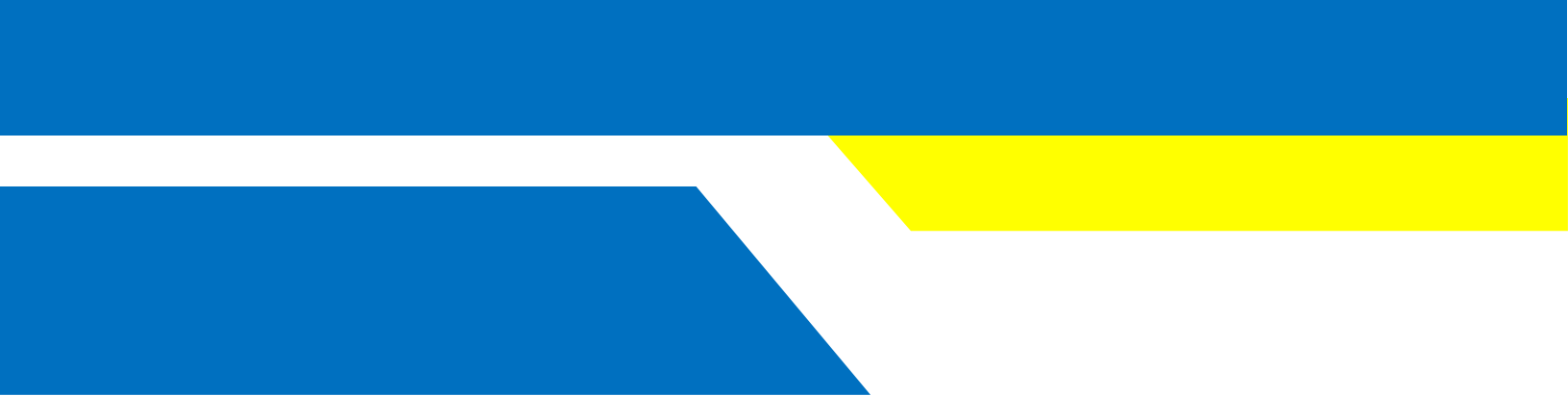
FROM THE SENATE MEETING ON 31 JANUARY 2024

The **Treasurer** reports that an error was discovered in last years awards funding, and was rectified. The recipient has been made aware, has accepted the Treasurer's apology for the error. The Treasurer then expressed hope that rectifying this issue will help elucidate the process and revise operating processes.

The **Executive Committee (EC)** reported that its meeting with Pres. Newsom and VPAA Golden was positive, frank and productive. The EC raised the continued re-evaluation of compensation, and expressed its enthusiasm that the forthcoming meeting with the joint Salary Card Committee (CARDCOM) represented ongoing commitments from the administration. The meeting also included an update from Pres. Newsom about the ongoing process to bring the Civitas advising platform to campus. Pres. Newsome noted that the process was delayed, at his insistence, from full rollout last Fall, to allow faculty and support staff time to acclimate to Canvas, prior to adding additional cognitive labor represented by Civitas. The EC also presented its initial findings to VPAA Golden and Pres. Newsom about faculty turnover and the observed "mid-career leadership deficit" that the data suggest. Pres. Newsom and VPAA Golden expressed due concern about the results, asked pertinent and engaged questions, and made commitments to follow up on these trends. The EC was encouraged by the qualitative engagement of the conversation. Pres. Newsom also updated the EC about the ongoing planning stage for renovation of buildings whose work began before the new Campus Master Plan, shared updates about recent philanthropic donations to the Foundation, and noted that 6 March was planned as the first "Giving Day," which represents another fundraising effort.

The **Budget Committee (BC)** had no report.

Personnel Policies (PPC) Committees had no additional report.



The **Planning Committee (PC)** had no report, beyond an update about the closing of the award nomination process. The PC will meet to review the nominees and sort them before voting opens.


Committee on Committees (CC) had no report.

The **University Affairs Committee (UAC)** reports that scheduling for its next meeting, and outreach to university constituencies are ongoing.

The *ad hoc* committee on Academic Integrity Challenges and Generative AI has been empaneled by Senate Chair Shannon and, at the urging of the Senate, CIDT's Christala Smith and Alisha Ridenour, *pro causa docendi*, have been added, despite the usual prohibition against adjunct faculty serving on Senate committees.

Senate discussed the problems of budgeting experienced by some units with respect to their student workers. Initial discussion indicates that student workers with work study awards have, allegedly due to the new higher hourly rate paid, "run out of hours" and without budgetary resources, some units are no longer able to offer student workers consistently scheduled hours. Several members pledged to investigate their own units' allocations informally and report back for further discussion.

Senate also discussed the current process for awarding Organized Research funding and whether it required updating to more fairly accommodate the varying schedules for conferences across disciplines. Sen. Garasinghe, who chairs the Organized Research committee, has pledged to investigate adjustments to the deadlines and, having gathered data, report back to the Senate.



ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

Karen Gross, from the McCurtain County Campus, has been invited to share an update about the concerns of the faculty there during the 14 February meeting of the Senate.

The OSHRE Faculty Advisory panel [has created a survey](#), which faculty are encouraged to complete.

The schedule for the Shared Governance Fora for the Spring have been set. The Faculty Senate's proposed meeting is 21 February 2024 at 15:00, while the Administration's proposed meeting is 12 March at 14:00. Faculty are encouraged to attend both meetings, and more information will be forthcoming.

The Director of Study Abroad reminds his colleagues that the portal for Fulbright Scholarships will open in April, so rising Seniors are encouraged to review that program, and faculty are encouraged to send their postgraduate-oriented students to the Study Abroad Office. If faculty have students that might benefit from these career- and academically-oriented programs, they should refer the students to www.se.edu/study-abroad or have the students email studyabroad@se.edu.

Please visit the [Faculty Senate website](#) for detailed information concerning *your* representative body!

This Faculty Senate News Brief was produced by the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate: Kate Shannon, chair; Sondra Petty, Chair-Elect; Amy Gantt, vice chair; Randy Clark, past-chair; B. Steve Csaki, treasurer; Andy Kramer, archivist; Kyle C. Lincoln, recorder; Christopher Moretti, parliamentarian.