

Minutes of the Faculty Senate
Wednesday, February 14, 2024
Meeting 3, Spring 2024
3:00-4:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Sarah Morrison
Kyle C. Lincoln
Mila Zhu
Gamage Garunsiinghe
Amy Gantt
F. Randy Clark
Laura J. Lamb Atchley
Amy Mills
Meg Cotter-Lynch
B. Steve Csaki
Kendra Gross (Guest)
Carol Sullivan (Guest)
Dena Rymel (Guest)
Ian Gerg

- I. Call to Order
Called to Order by SP, *in sede vacante*, at 15:04.
- II. Minutes from January 31, 2024
MCL motion to approve seconded by AK. Approved unanimously.
- III. Kendra Gross – Faculty Matters at the SE McCurtain County Campus
KG is the Director of the McCurtain County Campus. Current model operates academically in a defunct fashion—no longer meeting current student needs—as a kind of “Higher Education Center Model” that transitioned to a partner-branch course model. Since 2009, Eastern and Southeastern have been the main baccalaureate course offerings on the campus. Online enrollment has exploded at McCurtain, adding further downward pressure on the in-person enrollment at the campus. One of the wider goals of the wider McCurtain campus is to offer more courses in person that are going to be further developed in a regional network. KG notes that elementary education and nursing are two parts of SE programming

that are ripe for growth. ECU offered about half as many courses at McCurtain as it did in 2010 for General Education. KG suggests that one of the asks that McCurtain is going to be offering more Gen Ed classes there, with the hope that more in-person courses will be offered over the long term. Asking for Zoom-in courses from faculty in Durant. KG notes that more of the students at McCurtain are adult learners that have a greater need for in-person and hybridized courses, given that population's need for more high-touch teaching. KG notes that hybridized or synchronous courses are made especially challenging because internet connectivity and reliability is especially poor. KG notes that the children's lit collection at the campus is extensive. Questions about enrollment are hard to answer because of the way that data collection relative to enrollment happens to be managed. Course exchanges are set up that encourage faculty to bring courses in from Durant, but that engagement is limited to specific courses. The handoff between the SE side and the McCurtain County campus make it tricky to articulate students from one campus to another. Integration of Canvas and similar resources are shared. Questions about what classes are most needed and in greatest demand: "Gen Ed courses are in greatest need, including Comp I and Comp II; Math in Liberal Arts; Government; History Gen Ed. Tourism." Working on development of a series of articulation agreements to create more resilient and overlapping curricular architecture. McCurtain has no functional enrollment threshold, because they are usually high-need. One person classes have run, but there is a key focus on the nature of growing pains for a course pathway. Usually courses are cancelled by faculty or chairs because it becomes onerous to offer. Faculty with more follow-up questions are invited to email Kendra:

kgross@se.edu

IV. Treasurer's Report

BC notes that the Treasurer's Report is that BC has discovered an oversight and rectified it.

V. Committee Reports

A. Budget Committee

BUDCOM met with VP Westman and Comptroller Cheek, noting that the issues of funding and paperwork organization that led to an encumbrance on this year's budget for last year's budget. VP Westman has assured BC that the faculty awards issue will be handled by him personally to ensure that future overlaps are not problematic. VP Westman and BC have met to more seamlessly hand over paperwork to make antiquated processes more fluid and dynamic. The Senate accepts BC's *mea culpa* and commutes any punishments and penances imposed by BC on his own person.

B. Committee on Committees

FC notes that COMCOM has no formal report, but met in early February to develop process for committee vacancies on Committees and Councils. LLA notes

that rotations to ensure that there were enough mid-career faculty with tenure to serve as a chair for the committee. FC notes that he will make an effort to rotate leaders.

C. Executive Committee

EXCOM has noted that the planning for the SGF has begun, a name formalized, and an organizational plan for that meeting. Especially pertinent is the dearth of leaders, as LLA's question to COMCOM presents. Also the copies of the University Budget for public archiving as part of wider transparency efforts. AK has noted that she is developing a more direct and detail-oriented process for the archivist to make sure that transitions are not places for extensive loss. Examples of student data and faculty lists are supposed to be transferred; transparency efforts, though, are not always so seamless. KS notes that she asked about Exit Interviews and Faculty Hires ranks. KL notes that he has enquired about Exit Interviews from HR, but has not heard back from them.

D. Personnel Policies Committee

MCL notes that there has not been a meeting but they have been prepping for the joint meeting. PPC is working on the chairs' selection issue for the future in light of the AAUP meeting 13 Feb.

E. Planning Committee

MZ notes that Planning Committee has reviewed 219 submissions across the total of categories, and MZ has sent out the 1-page requests for the supporting documents. 4 Candidates for POY. Lifetime Achievement Awards nominations are now open.

MZ asks for a motion.

Motion: Libraries Faculty shall be eligible for Faculty Awards under the Division of Math and Science in the College of Arts & Sciences.

Motion proposed by MZ, seconded by KL.

Discussion: AK notes that Librarians can only be awarded for Service, but a designation of the division was never made.

CM moves to postpone to 28 February; AK seconds.

Motion carried unanimously.

F. University Affairs Committee

LLA notes that the meeting on the 7th was held. There are a lot of maintenance issues that were collated, especially at McCurtain County Campus. There were some budget disappearances at that campus, which were previously earmarked for the branch campus. This highlights a larger challenge for the oversight/transparency of the campus distinctions. McCurtain, for example, has several safety and water drainage issues that need remedy, also a lawnmower. UAC posits that the budgetmaking process needs more transparency on station. Work

orders are getting worked through, but there are still outstanding maintenance issues that need resolution and attention; more work orders may accelerate the resolution. Dead Time research is still ongoing, but no formal policy exists. Further research on this issue is still in progress. The overlapping scheduling creates some challenge to formalize such a period, but these issues are still outstanding and need more research and findings. Adjunct outreach is still in the research phase, and the need to create a kind of digital workspace to allow adjuncts to contribute their concerns in a useful fashion.

G. AI Cheating Ad Hoc Committee

IG notes that Alisha and Christala have been added to the committee. Met with Mike Davis to discuss the legal boundaries and how these might influence policy. Faculty are given proper academic freedom to determine what constitutes academic integrity violations. The *ad hoc* has also met with VP McCraw and A-Dean Kelly about the role played by Maxient, noting that no formal Maxient reports have been filed about the AI/Cheating question. This may be due to Maxient being useful for Academic Integrity violations, but faculty usually use it for emergencies for students related to personal or mental health. SP notes that “proof” questions about academic integrity have a chilling effect on faculty reporting; SP notes that Mike Davis suggests that “50% plus a feather” standards for civil litigation apply here. CM notes that in his experience that most students who cheat want a better grade or don’t want to do the work, with students in crisis typically seeking an accommodation of some kind.

VI. Old Business

- A. Advising Concerns – Communications from Mark Shields (see attached files)
KS notes that the email from Shields has been uploaded. Shields did not respond to the chair’s emails. Communication has been slim.

- B. Student workers – funding issue – (Cotter-Lynch) – Any new information?
MCL notes that verbal assurances have been given, but nothing in writing has been confirmed. The allotments are not functionally represented in the budget. Departments have, anecdotally, being told to “not worry about it.” Lack of clarity abounds. MCL notes that Mark Bisson has noted that the cash/work study budget is treated as a “total sum” rather than as separate lines. Several notes about budget transparency recur about the balance to the student worker and work study budget.

- C. Organized Research processes– update from Srimal Garusinghe
GG notes that OR met on 6 February to review applications. The Spring deadline by First Friday on February. Recommendations have been handed

over to Academic Affairs. The meeting also noted that the Spring budget is about \$60,000 for awards. Most of that is rolled over from the COVID backlog and rolls through other allocations. VPAA Golden is working on a rolling application process to support later applications in the cycle. IG asks if a structural change is active or if that is ongoing; that change is still in progress. GG notes that Lori Kennedy has provided data. In previous years, the rate of funding is nearly 100% of requests, but that is not always the case. Some years are more heavily proposed than others. GG notes that this is a correction from his previous reporting.

- D. Request for faculty retention data from Academic Affairs – Status
KS asked for this information; KL has also emailed HR about the same issue.

VII. New Business
No new business.

XII. Announcements
As read below by KS.

- A. Shared Governance Forums – February 21st at 3 pm– Faculty Senate Topic – “The Value of Service and the Danger of Its Absence at SE; March 12th at 2 pm – Administration Topic
- B. OSRHE Faculty Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FACOpinion>.
- C. Mutual Mentoring Group Meeting 2/22 at 3:30 pm **via InSpace** – Topic – Research and Potential Collaborations
- D. **Library has free books, come get one.**

XIII. Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn at 16:32 by CM; seconded by KL.
In favor, 3; opposed, 7; abstentions, 0.**

Motion Failed.

**Motion to adjourn at 16:39 by KL; seconded by AK.
Motion unanimous.**