

**Kentucky State University  
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
September 17, 2021**

**Submitted by Senate Secretary Danny Collum**

**1. Call to Order**

Senate was called to order with a quorum at 9:01 a.m. Senate Secretary noted to attendees, for their information, that a representative of the local news media was in the meeting

**2. Approval of Agenda [5 minute time limit]**

Senator Collum was recognized and moved to add to the agenda consideration of a resolution expressing the response of the faculty to the dismissal of Staff Regent Chandee Felder. He asked that this item be placed on the agenda after administrative updates. The Senate President expressed his view that this was a matter for the Staff Senate. Senator Hannemann spoke with a point of order noting that according to Roberts' Rules of Order, the presiding officer may not participate in debate. The motion to add the item to the agenda was seconded and approved without opposition.

With that amendment, the agenda was approved unanimously.

However, President Clay noted that, in keeping with his agreement with the Acting President of the University, the additional item would not be discussed in the presence of news media representatives until a representative of the university media office joined the meeting.

**3. Approve Meeting minutes from 9-3-21 [5 minute time limit]**

Mara Merlino and Margery Coulson-Clark need to be added to the guest attendance list. Nurse Todd asked that the minutes clarify that Covid tests in August included athletics. These corrections were made and the amended minutes were approved unanimously.

**4. Faculty Senate President Report [5 minute time limit]**

President Clay urged all attending to be vaccinated for Covid 19 if they have not yet and noted the phone number, website and email address for Covid information. He reported that in his last meeting with Provost Hamilton they discussed the status of all the university wide committees. The provost also asked him to communicate to faculty that the mode of delivery for our courses must be as it was posted on WIRED at the beginning of the semester. They also discussed faculty participation in the advising process, graduate tuition rates and ideas for Centers of Excellence on the KSU campus. The provost also urges all faculty to be prompt in communicating with students.

The Executive Committee, in its weekly meeting, discussed the status of past action items that were approved but have not been implemented and the possibility of inviting Dr. Aaron Thompson to an Executive Committee meeting..

President Clay reported that, in his meetings with student representatives, they have asked for faculty to be more conscientious in keeping Blackboard up to date in our courses.

The Faculty Regent election was successfully concluded. There will be a university holiday October 11. Midterm grades will be due October 13. Founders' Day is October 15. Midterms are Oct 2- 8 and Homecoming is Oct 8-10. Last day to drop course with a "W" is Oct 22. **NO** ESA's (Emotional Support Animals) are allowed in the classroom or any other

building on campus besides the Halls Dormitory. **ONLY**, Service Animals with proper documentation.

5. **Faculty Regent Updates [5 minute time limit]-**

Dr. Herman Walston- Introductory Address & Update

Dr. Walston reported that he has not yet had his orientation for the Board, and his swearing-in will be at the next Board meeting. He then shared his thoughts about serving on the Board of Regents. He has been at KSU for 44 years under 11 presidents, so he is very familiar with KSU. He thanked the faculty for electing him. He wants to see the university operate smoothly and see student success. We're off track now, Dr. Walston said, from the Board all the way down. We need to return to the strong emphasis on teaching, research and service instead of an emphasis on self-serving administrators. He said he wants to do what is best for the school. He noted that, while some of the current situation is new, much of it isn't. KSU is resilient, he said. Dr. Walston promised to be transparent. Eventually, the Board will move toward selecting a new president who can move us forward. The key words for that process are transparent and accountable. We all have to work together. I'm committed, he said, and after 44 years, he's seen it all. He noted that the Board has a called meeting October 16, and he would do the right thing. That's what he has to offer.

A faculty guest asked if Dr. Walston had any comment on the dismissal of Staff Regent Chandee Felder. He replied that he doesn't know what was behind it, and he didn't want to get ahead of the Faculty Senate's discussion of the issue. He noted that we should be calm and not get bogged down.

6. **General Education Update, [5 minute time limit]**

NA

7. **Administration Updates [5 minutes each]**

**Dr. Dailey- Distance Learning & Technology**

Thanks to all who have participated in Blackboard training. Walk-in Wednesdays will begin soon. Coffee and snacks will be available and all are welcome to walk in with their academic technology questions and problems.

Senator Ballard-Kang asked where the Distance Learning office is now. Dr. Dailey replied that it is Hathaway 409 and the walk-in hours will be 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Dr. Deams/Dean Sims-Student Engagement**

NA

**Nurse Todd- Safety**

The vaccine promotion campaign is being reviewed by Acting President Stamps. It will come with incentives to encourage vaccination among staff and students. Also rolling out

is an education initiative. Allison Young, professor of family and consumer sciences, has a CDC grant to do vaccine education, along with the Franklin County Health Department. Keith Wicker in biology is also participating in this. In October there will be a vaccination clinic at Streetfest October 8. All three Covid 19 vaccines will be offered, and boosters if those have been approved by then.

The September 15 blood drive was very successful. There will be another in the spring. Nurse Todd noted that the Faculty Senate should consider offering some kind of community service credit to students for participation in blood drives.

Current CDC protocol says that if you have symptoms and get a rapid test, even if the rapid test is negative, you must go ahead with a PCR test that goes to the lab. Results for these are currently taking 48-72 hours. The person must quarantine while awaiting PCR results.

Email Nurse Todd with any questions about any of these matters. Also, she reminded us that class excuses are privileged information protected by FERPA and HIPA, the privacy laws for educational and medical records respectively.

A senator asked about the very low vaccination rate among students, and Nurse Todd replied that this is partly a problem with reporting. There are probably students who were vaccinated before they came to school who haven't submitted a record of that to Student Health. As part of the vaccine promotion campaign we will be asking students to upload their vaccination card. We currently have 40 percent of the student body confirmed as fully vaccinated. We're behind UK and U of L, but we're working on it.

#### **Daryl Love-**

NA

#### **Dr. Coulson-Clark- Advising**

Dr. Coulson-Clark reported that University College is looking at best practices for advising and the software that is needed to implement those. She is also going to the National Academic Advising Association for ideas. Input from the faculty is welcome!

#### **Dr. Schneller Academics/Research /Accreditation & Assessment**

Dr. Schneller encouraged all faculty to keep working with her and Micah Glenn on grants possibilities. She is also working with Dr. Walston on plans for grant training.

Senator McCutchen noted that training should cover all stages of the grants process including pre- and post-.

Dr. Schneller said that she is hoping to create a cadre of faculty who can do training in their units. We should also consult the Sponsored Programs website and the FAQ for much of the necessary grants information.

Senator Gyawali asked if there could possibly be incentives for grantwriting, such as course releases. Dr. Schneller replied that would have to go through the academic unit and the provost.

#### **8. Senate Committee Reports [5 minutes each]**

##### **a Academic Policy Committee report [5 minute time limit]**

Senator Grimes reported that APC is looking at class scheduling problems and particularly the impact of the four-day academic week. He said that there are some problems with this, especially for the STEM areas. They want to bring this discussion to the Faculty Senate

and meet with the provost about it. Provost Hamilton has agreed to come to one of their meetings.

At this point, Senator Griffis was recognized, and he pointed out that the Senate was not following the agenda that had been approved earlier, which had consideration of a resolution on the dismissal of Regent Chandee Felder coming after administrative updates. President Clay called for the Curriculum Committee report.

**b. Curriculum Committee report [5 minute time limit]**

Senator Wang reported that the Curriculum Committee needs a new member. He also brought forward an action item from the School of Behavioral and Social Sciences. The item would remove psychology from the Masters in Interdisciplinary Behavioral Sciences degree program. This is necessary for accreditation purposes. The item was approved without opposition.

Senator Wang also reported that the committee discussed again the problem of getting action from the registrar on past approved action items. They hope to get Provost Hamilton to one of their meetings to hear about that problem. Also at the committee's last meeting Dr. Graves brought a document on program approval to be considered at the next meeting.

**c. Professional Concerns Committee report [5 minute time limit]**

Senator Stratton reported that the PCC is looking at last year's unfinished business and gathering the new concerns of faculty. Send your concerns to Gary Stratton.

**d. Budget and Academic Support Committee report [5 minute time limit]**

Senator Ballard-Kang reported that Senator McCutchen is working on grants training programs. Dr. Berkley King is coming to our October 8 meeting to talk about that.

Senator Kashan has a faculty survey on plus or minus grading options ready to go. All faculty should take the survey when you get it. It is only one question.

Senator Collum has arranged for VP Greg Rush to join us for our September 24 meeting to update us and hear our concerns about the university's financial situation.

Senator Ballard-Kang is working on finding out where course fees are going and trying to get them re-directed to the academic units.

Senator Hannemann noted that an article in the State Journal that morning reported that the percentage of spending on instruction in KSU's budget was down to only 12.8 percent.

Could the BASC look at that and recommend a target percentage for KSU?

Senator Ballard-Kang asked him to send her that report, and the committee would certainly consider that.

**9. Other Business [10 minute time limit]**

Senator Collum was recognized and asked that the agenda item previously approved be considered now under "Other Business." At this point, KSU's General Counsel, Lisa Lang, stated that Kentucky open meetings law prevented an open meeting of the Faculty Senate from discussing personnel matters.

President Clay then asked for a motion to adjourn, but no motion was forthcoming.

Discussion continued, and faculty members attending the meeting raised questions about Ms. Lang's authority to make such a ruling. Another called it a "gag order." It was also

stated that the issue is not just a matter of the particular person fired, but that of KSU's policy toward whistleblowers. This silencing of dissenting voices is terrible for KSU's image.

Senator Grimes said that he was concerned about recent events, but also thought we shouldn't be reactionary or too quick.

Senator Collum was recognized again and asked that the Senate direct its Professional Concerns Committee to consider action on the treatment of whistleblowers at KSU to be brought forward at the next Senate meeting.

Senator Hannemann suggested, as a friendly amendment, that instead the Senate Executive Committee should call a full faculty meeting for next Friday to discuss these matters.

Senator Collum said he would withdraw his motion in deference to Senator Hannemann's. The motion directing the Executive Committee to call a meeting of the full faculty passed with 18 votes for it and none opposing or abstaining.

## **10. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:36.

## **Attendance**

### **Senators**

Patti Marraccini  
Changzheng Wang  
Keith McCutchen  
Jens Hannemann  
Daniel D Collum  
Phillip H Clay  
Fariba Kashan  
Gary Stratton  
Bobby Walter  
Rozina Johnson  
Mary Barr  
Barbara Witty  
Gavin Washington  
Alexander Lai  
Dr. Kristopher R Grimes  
Jennifer Ballard-Kang  
Buddhi Raj Gyawali  
Bruce Griffis  
Shawn Lucas  
James Obielodan  
Nancy Capriles  
Noel D. Novelo  
Dr. Nkechi Amadife  
Rene Desborde  
Fariba Bigdeli Jahed

### **Guests**

Sharon McGee  
Dr. Frederick A. Williams Jr.  
Wanda Gonsalves  
Clifton Wise  
Ken Andries  
Ms. Doyle  
Herman Walston  
Dr. Leroy Hamilton, Jr.  
Debra Tate  
Samantha Todd  
LeChrista Finn  
Austin Horn  
Lauren Graves  
Professor Griffin  
Deena McGaughey-Summers  
Mara Merlino  
Helen Smith  
Margery Coulson-Clark  
Sheila Stuckey  
Ban  
Margery Coulson-Clark  
David Neville  
Dr. BE  
David Shabazz  
Frederick A. Williams Jr., Ph.D  
Chi Shen  
Rita Sharma  
Li Lu  
Beverly Schneller  
Peter Smith  
Maheteme  
Dr. Brooks-Eaves  
Prof. E. Amadife  
Scott Gentry  
Tierra Freeman-Taylor  
Lisa Lang  
Jesse Osbourne