

Kentucky State University
Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting
October 1, 2021
Submitted by Danny Collum, Senate Secretary

Call to Order

9:00 a.m. with quorum present

Approval of Agenda [5 minute time limit]

Approved without opposition.

Approve Meeting minutes from 9-24-21 [5 minute time limit]

Approved as submitted.

1. Faculty Senate President Report [5 minute time limit]

President Clay began the meeting by reading aloud, and displaying on the meeting screen, the “Purpose of the Faculty Senate” from the Faculty Senate Constitution.

The Faculty Senate of Kentucky State University exists:

A. To recommend broad academic policies for the University and to make regulations to implement the academic policies established by the Board of Regents.

B. To approve all academic courses, except in those instances where accrediting agencies require approval of an autonomous curriculum committee.

C. To recommend new graduate, baccalaureate, and associate degree programs and the abolition or suspension of such programs.

D. To establish policies for the academic calendar and to approve the annual academic calendar.

E. To advise the President on criteria and procedures for faculty appointments, reappointments, promotions, and the granting of tenure.

F. To make recommendations to the President on the establishment, alteration, composition, and abolition of educational units.

G. To advise the President on the planning for physical facilities and staff when these may affect the attainment of educational objectives.

H. To recommend to the President conditions for admission to the University and to specific academic programs.

I. To recommend to the President the requirements for specific graduate, baccalaureate and associate degrees.

J. To provide a forum for the expression of opinion on matters relating to the well-being of the University, to provide a means for dissemination of information of interest to the faculty, and to provide a structure for study, planning, and the evaluation of academic programs and practices.

Next, President Clay announced contact info for Covid 19 information, especially the campus email covid19@kysu.edu. He also noted that protective and sanitizing supplies can be obtained from Facilities, email issac.yett@kysu.edu.

In his meeting with the provost, President Clay reported that they discussed getting all the university-wide committees appointed and operating. They also discussed the need for faculty volunteers to work with the advising office, possible flat rate for graduate-level tuition, the CREE and Atwood institutes, transfer agreements with other schools, CDC guidelines, curriculum guides and the development of a new strategic plan.

The Executive Committee is getting all committee and Senate documents posted on Teams so that they are accessible to all faculty. They discussed the possibility of getting Dr. Aaron Thompson to attend one of the Executive Committee meetings, and issues with the four-day class schedule. President Clay also noted that the SGA president has been invited to attend all Senate Executive Committee meetings.

October 9 is the 2021 Homecoming 3K Walk and Run for Breast Cancer.

Senator Griffis noted that October 12 is now a holiday on the Academic Calendar.

Dr. Clay announced that Midterms are Oct 2-8. Homecoming is Oct 8-10. Last day for students to submit work for an incomplete grade from Spring & Summer 2021 is Oct 8. Academic Holiday is Oct 11 (Columbus Day), Midterm grades are due Oct 13. Founders' Day [at the time of the meeting] was to be Oct 15. [Later changed to October 8]. Last day to drop course with a "W"- Oct 22.

Faculty Regent Updates [5 minute time limit-

Dr. Herman Walston- NA

General Education Update, [5 minute time limit]

Bruce Griffis – NA

Administration Updates [5 minutes each]

Nurse Todd- Safety

On behalf of Dr. Deams and Dean Sims she announced that midterm study spaces had been created in the Student Center. She announced that Facilities is focusing its efforts on the residence halls. In staff and faculty office areas, contractors are only emptying trash that is put into hallways and cleaning bathrooms. Cleaning supplies are available from Issac Yett. Regarding Homecoming events. The mask requirement will be the same for Homecoming events as for everything else on campus. Masks are required at all times indoors and in large groups outdoors. Alumni will be required to mask on the shuttles. Masks will be provided upon request. There are new dates for testing and vaccination clinics on campus: October 2 and 23 and November 13. As of today, people 65 and up, the immunocompromised and frontline workers are eligible for Pfizer boosters six months after the second dose. All university employees are considered frontline workers.

Dr. Colson-Clark- Advising

University College is hoping to implement a 2+2 advising model, meaning students have an advisor from University College for the first two years and one from the faculty in their major for the last two years. Review of this plan is going on now. It would begin Fall 2022, which means beginning with pre-registration April 1, 2022.

Senator Griffis pointed out that in some areas faculty will need to be involved before the third year if students have to prepare for professional testing.

Dr. Colson-Clark replied that some areas do this already, particularly nursing and social work.

Dr. Freeman-Taylor asked why the first two years with an advisor when the core is now only 32-36 hours?

Dr. Colson-Clark said that she would consider other plans, but that 2+2 is best practice.

Senator Obielodan asked where do transfers enter the system, especially those who come with an A.A. degree. And how do we keep students out of classes that they are not eligible for?

Dr. Colson-Clark said students get a curriculum guide for their area of interest so they can take responsibility for their academic progress. She also asked what other sign-offs should our registration system require? University College is trying to put together a holistic approach that includes students and academic units. She also responded that transfers should go to the departments. Transfer transcript analysis should be done in the departments.

Mara Merlino noted that, for some departments with few faculty and large enrollments, taking on advising will be a big workload. Is there more that can be done to automate the system for things like pre-requisites?

Dr. Colson-Clark said that University College has requested funding for DegreeWorks and other software that would automate these processes. She also said that by the time students get to the departments for advising they should know what track they are on and what they need.

Dr. Colson-Clark also announced that there will be a Career Fair October 28.

, Dr. Schneller/Graves Academics/Research /Accreditation & Assessment,

Dr. Schneller noted that Dr. Graves has been assembling curriculum guides for every program and much of that work is done. She reported that Business is having its accreditation site visit. She also announced a number of grants including ones to agriculture for work with farmers and education for teacher education.

On the government relations front, she pointed out that the Build Back Better Act in progress in the U.S. Congress has many measures affecting higher education. We should stay informed and contact our representatives.

Dr. Schneller announced that Dr. Lauren Graves is leaving Kentucky State University. Dr. Schneller will be picking up some of Dr. Graves' work and Institutional Research will take some of it.

Dr. Graves reported that most 2021 assessment reports are in, and they all should be.

Review the Qualtrics data in reference to the Resolution and decide next steps

President Clay reported that the poll regarding the Faculty Senate Resolution on University Governance had 59 respondents. Forty said that the Senate should go forward with the resolution. Nineteen said we should not. The Professional Concerns Committee will consider this information and recommend further action, or inaction, at the next Senate meeting.

9.. Senate Committee Reports [5 minutes each]

Academic Policy Committee report [5 minute time limit]

APC Chair Kristopher Grimes reported that he met with the provost about the four-day class week. APC wants feedback from all faculty on this issue. They are developing a survey that we will be seeing soon. APC and the provost want your input.

Curriculum Committee report [5 minute time limit]

Senator Wang reported that the committee has a new secretary, Yun Jiang. There were no proposals at the last meeting, so they discussed the program review process and a program approvals document that is forthcoming. He said that Dr. Graves' work with the committee has been very helpful, and he hopes Dr. Schneller will be able to continue that or designate someone to fill that role.

Professional Concerns Committee report [5 minute time limit]

PCC Chair Gary Stratton reported that, at its last meeting, the committee approved the Resolution on University Governance. Since then, they have also worked on a resolution regarding the upcoming presidential search to make sure that Dr. Aaron Thompson knows what our wishes are regarding faculty representation. He presented the text of this resolution that was approved by his committee:

Faculty Senate Resolution on Presidential Search

Whereas the last Presidential Search Committee had no regular faculty representation and had only a quasi-administrator (a division chair) representing faculty;

Whereas the last Presidential Search Committee refused to put the faculty's consensus choice for finalist, Dr. Aaron Thompson, on the list of finalists, in defiance of a full-faculty resolution;

Whereas the last Presidential Search lacked transparency in how faculty input was used, if at all, in its decision to hire a candidate whose record was marred by financial impropriety in his previous appointment as a college president;

Be it resolved that Faculty Senate is requesting that at least two regular teaching faculty nominated by Faculty Senate, in addition to the Faculty Regent, be appointed to the Presidential Search Committee currently being formed, and that this Committee make a commitment to fairness and transparency in the upcoming presidential search process.

Dr. Stashia Emmanuel inquired why this needed to be a resolution? Why can't this be communicated directly by the Senate President?

Dr. LeChrista Finn asked what is the intent of this resolution? Why is it needed? Why does this have to be so formal?

Senator McCutchen asked how does this relate to Executive Committee's prospective meeting with Dr. Thompson? Can we poll the faculty on this resolution?

Senator Collum noted that the executive committee does not have a meeting with Dr. Thompson scheduled yet, and the Board of Regents is meeting October 16.

Dr. Finn said that poll numbers, such as the one done on a prior resolution, don't reflect the whole faculty because everyone doesn't get all the information.

Dr. Helen Smith noted that in the past Faculty Senate documents, including action items and resolutions coming from the committees, were distributed directly to all faculty, not just to deans and chairs.

Dr. Finn further asked whether this resolution would be seen as an endorsement of Aaron Thompson for KSU president. She suggested that we delete his name from the text.

Dr. Peter Smith said that the background here is that during the last presidential search, when Kim Sipes was Senate President, there was widespread concern about the search process that resulted in a faculty vote of no-confidence in the Board of Regents and its Chair. That all began with a request for more faculty representation on the search committee that was turned down by the Board.

Senator Collum offered a friendly amendment to remove reference to Dr. Thompson from the text and replace that with a statement that the last search committee “*refused to put the faculty’s favored candidate on the list of finalists, in defiance of a full-faculty resolution.*”

The Senate voted with 14 supporting the amendment, no votes against it and no abstentions.

The Senate then moved to a vote on the amended resolution. The resolution passed with 16 votes for it, none against and no abstentions.

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

Committee Chair Jennifer Ballard-Kang reported that a recording of BASC’s meeting with VP Greg Rush is in the committee’s folder on Microsoft Teams. Mr. Rush said he would be willing to come before the entire Senate when the investigation of the school’s finances is complete. He wants to work with BASC on the 2022 budget. He also said that the indirect cost recovery on grants would be suspended for this year.

BASC is going to prepare a report on the percentage of spending devoted to instruction by KSU compared to its peer institutions.

The poll of faculty on adding a plus or minus grading option was 42 for the change and 41 against it.

Senator Ballard-Kang also reported that she is working on getting course fees directed to the relevant academic unit instead of being swallowed by the general fund.

Senator Collum, a BASC member, pointed that Mr. Rush told us that KSU had already taken its fourth quarter payment from the state in advance in order to meet payroll and pay bills, and that is the reason for the media reports that we will run out of money by April. Mr. Rush also told the committee that, as of that time, no personal corruption had been found in the investigation of KSU finances.

Dr. Mara Merlino noted that the suspension of indirect cost recovery will be a disincentive for grantwriting. She understands the crisis, but this really pulls the rug out from under faculty who have worked to bring money into KSU.

Senator Ballard-Kang acknowledged that it had to be one of our priorities to get that reinstated as soon as possible.

Senator Hannemann commented that BASC should talk to VP Rush about going to zero-based budgeting, at least for the next couple of years.

Senator Lucas asked if this news about grants meant that the travel and professional development portions of grants were also frozen?

Senator Ballard-Kang replied that Indirect Cost Recovery was all that was discussed in the committee meeting.

Senator Obielodan noted that in the two years he served as chair of his unit, he never received a budget.

Dr. Schneller clarified that grant-funded travel and Title III professional development travel are not affected by the freeze on travel expenses.

Other Business [10 minute time limit]

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The Senate adjourned at 10:45.

Attendance

Phillip H Clay
Changzheng Wang
Kristopher R Grimes
Patti Marraccini
Gary Stratton
Rozina Johnson
Keith McCutchen
Nancy Capriles
Barbara Witty
Fariba Kashan
Daniel D Collum
Bruce Griffis

Bobby Walter
Alexander Lai
Mary Barr
Noel Novelo
Jennifer Ballard-Kang
Buddhi Gyawali
James Obielodan
Shawn Lucas
Jens Hannemann
Rene D Desborde
Gavin Washington
Dr. Nkechi Amadife

Guests

LeChrista Finn
Jesse Osbourne
Mary Ellen Broaddus
Laura Cullen Glasscock
Stashia L. Emanuel
Helen Smith
Cindy Glass
Keturah Nix, PhD
Deena McGaughey-Summers
Mary Ellen Broaddus
Dr. Berkley N. King, Jr.
Dr. Frederick A. Williams Jr.
Peter Smith
Yun Jiang
Jyotica Batra
Beverly Schneller
Eric Yang
Margery Coulson-Clark
Tierra Freeman-Taylor
Ms. Doyle

Lauren Graves
Rita Sharma
Debbra Tate
Li Lu
Maia M Langley
Charles Holloway
Ken Andries
Clifton Wise
Samantha Todd
Dr. Leroy Hamilton, Jr.
Mara Merlino
Sharon McGee
David Shabazz
Ban
Maheteme
Danielle
Lana
Kysu Student
Kysu Student