

## **Kentucky State University**

### **Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting**

**October 29, 2021**

**Submitted by Danny Collum, Senate Secretary**

#### **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order with quorum present at 9:01 a.m.

#### **Approval of Agenda**

Agenda approved as submitted. No opposition or discussion.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the October 15, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously as submitted.

#### **Faculty Senate President's Report - Senate President Phillip Clay**

President Clay reminded Senate of the email and phone number for pandemic information: [covid19@kysu.edu](mailto:covid19@kysu.edu) and 855-598-2246.

In President Clay's meeting with Provost Hamilton, he reported, they discussed procedures for annual evaluations and for student course evaluations. The provost informed him that all study abroad is on hold. Academic Affairs is studying the Interfolio system to determine if it is worth its cost. Also, a committee is underway to draft a strategic plan for academic affairs. Scott Wicker is the chair and person to contact about that.

In the Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting, there was much discussion of the announcement that students could start leaving campus November 8. The committee also discussed safety concerns on campus and the status of past and returned action items. The APC chair reported on the faculty exchange document and a forthcoming survey on the four day class schedule.

President Clay reports that he met with Acting President Stamps. She urges faculty to keep up communication with students and to report non-attending students to University College. They also discussed the status of fall semester Senate action items and the instructional budget. The acting president stated that the instructional budget for the next fiscal year will be guided by CPE.

In a meeting with student representatives, President Clay heard their concerns with the university's advising process, the lack of instruction taking place in some online classes, the need for better class attendance from students and the need for a better space for the Thorobred Learning Center.

The election for faculty representatives to the Presidential Search Committee will open November 5 and remain open through 4:30 p.m. November 8. Advising for spring semester begins November 1. The university will be closed for a federal holiday November 11. The last day of in-person classes is November 19. Classes resume online November 29. Last day of classes is December 3. Finals begin December 4.

A guest raised a question about the November 8 move out date and its implications for the last week of in-person classes. President Clay said the question could be pursued with the provost or vice-provost. Nurse Todd intervened to report that the November 8 date was only for students residing in The Halls or McCullin Hall. Those students must move out completely, as if it were the end of the year, because facilities needs to start major work there, so the students were given a longer period for moving out.

President Clay concluded his report by noting that the spring semester begins January 15.

#### **Faculty Regent Report - Regent Herman Walston**

Regent Walston reported that the Board met October 19, 2021. They were in closed session for almost four hours discussing pending litigation, personnel matters and matters related to requests for proposals and bidding. In the open session, the Board heard an update from CPE representatives on the Management Improvement Plan. Dr. Thompson and Mr. Travis Powell reported that KSU's financial situation was due to poor administrative leadership in financial management, inadequate budget controls and a failure of internal auditing.

In action items, the Board voted to ask CPE to request \$23 million from the legislature to cover our shortfall. This is to cover \$6-7 million in current shortfall and \$15 million accumulated from the past. CPE will make this request to the state legislature.

The Management Improvement Plan will require oversight by and reporting to CPE on implementation of policies and procedures, on guidelines for salary ranges, on enrollment management and measures to improve student success. The new president will continue to develop the plan and report to CPE on its implementation.

The Board approved composition of a Presidential Search Committee that will have 11 members. A representative of CPE will chair the committee. There will be two students, two faculty, two staff, two alumni and two Frankfort residents. The student, faculty, staff and alumni members will be elected by their constituents. The two Frankfort representatives will be selected by Dr. Aaron Thompson. One of the Frankfort representatives must be someone who works in K-12 education. Names of these committee members must be selected by November 9.

The search committee will identify candidates and report two or three finalists to the Board with a summary of each of those candidates strengths and weaknesses. The committee will use an executive search consulting firm.

The Board also approved purchase of software for curriculum and transcript management, a contract for an external audit, spending for information technology upgrades, HVAC work on The Halls and sale of surplus property.

A senator suggested that Regent Walston ask the Board to consider a public relations offensive to put a positive spin on the KSU story.

### **General Education Update – Senator Bruce Griffis**

A draft of the general education report has gone to CPE. Thanks to all who helped with that. All units with general education classes should be planning for their course assessments at the end of the semester.

### **Administrative Updates**

#### **Student Engagement and Campus Life**

##### **Dean Arlen Sims**

Dean Sims sent a message (read by President Clay) urging all faculty to make sure that students will have the resources for virtual learning after the Thanksgiving break. Student requests for hotspots should go to [destinibaker2@kysu.edu](mailto:destinibaker2@kysu.edu)

Also, in planning virtual assignments and deadlines, remember that there may be time zone differences.

#### **Health and Safety**

##### **Nurse Samantha Todd**

Last vaccination and testing clinic of the semester will be November 13 10-2 in Exum. Boosters have been approved for all three Covid 19 vaccines. All faculty qualify for boosters if you are two months past your Johnson and Johnson vaccine or six months after your Pfizer or Moderna

vaccine. People who got the Johnson and Johnson vaccine initially may take a booster of it, or of either of the other two.

There were three employee Covid 19 cases this week, all in the faculty. No positive tests among our students. Testing is available at Shauntee Hall 9-3 Monday to Thursday and 9-2 Friday.

KSU staff are starting to meet about implement the OSHA vaccine or testing mandate. The final standards on that are coming soon. KSU is currently looking for the best way for everyone to upload their proof of vaccination. 41 percent of students are currently proved to be vaccinated. That is probably under-reported.

There will be another blood drive February 16, 2022. Nurse Todd asked faculty to consider extending extra credit to students who participate. Black HIV Day will be February 7, 2022.

A senator asked if we can get a Covid 19 booster and a flu shot at the same time. Nurse Todd said yes, that is safe.

## **Professional Development and Career Services**

### **Daryl Love**

Fifty-four employers participated in the in-person Career Fair last week and 259 students. Employers say those are great numbers compared to other schools in the area. During Career Development Week the week of October 12 Mr. Love's office offered resume workshops and mock interviews and had alumni in to talk about opportunities in state government. There will be a state government career fair in the spring semester. Eleven KSU students are enrolled in the Deloitte mentoring program and three students have been named as congressional interns to work in Washington, DC. Every Wednesday Career Services has employers in to talk to students over lunch.

### **University College - Margery Coulson-Clark**

Registration begins November 1. We need to stress this to students. The window for registration on campus will be short. Junior and senior pre-registration especially needs work. As stated earlier, the Board approved the software purchases sought by University College. And a new space is needed for the Thorobred Learning Center. She urged faculty to reach out to her with any ideas or suggestions and to let her office know about non-attending students. A couple of students recently said that there was no faculty in their online classes. And some classes still have not gotten midterm grades.

A guest asked if juniors and seniors were supposed to see major faculty for registration, and the answer was yes.

Students also need to be encouraged to go ahead and complete the FAFSA for 2022-2023 which is now available.

## **Academic Affairs Research, Accreditation and Assessment – Beverly Schneller**

Dr. Wendy Dixie has been awarded her PhD. KSU's Master's in Interdisciplinary Behavioral Science has been recognized by AcademicInfluence.com as one of its best online graduate programs. The Build Better Act raises Pell grants to \$7,000, includes funding specifically for HBCUs and other minority-serving institutions and has USDA funding that could help KSU. Please advocate for this bill through any avenues you may have. It was noted that, at the Career Fair, there were students who were signed up for internships right there on the spot. Grants in

progress include requests to the Library of Congress for the university archives, one centered on child health and one for the preservation of Jackson Hall.

HERF applications (for federal pandemic relief funds) will be opened soon. There is a link on the website for seeking Title III professional development money. Travel for this purpose may or may not be approved.

There was an Assessment Committee meeting, and faculty will be hearing from them soon. Program reviews for CPE are upcoming. In addition, we are charged with developing a CPE Kentucky Graduate Profile that will include benchmarks for learning and professional skills. Frederick Williams and Tonika East are taking the lead on this. KSU has applied to join the Student Success Collaborative.

In developing program goals and learning outcomes please note that PLOs need to line up with CPE expectations.

Vice-Provost Schneller also noted on behalf of the provost that the announcement about students moving out November 8 came from student affairs. She suggested that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee might want to establish a liaison with student affairs to avoid such communication mishaps in the future.

## **Faculty Senate Committee Reports**

### **Academic Policies Committee – Vice-Chair Bruce Griffis**

The 2020-2021 catalog is now on the KYSU website. At its last meeting APC discussed the problem that early move out date will cause for in-person teaching and did more work on the survey regarding the four-day class schedule. Senator Grimes noted that the survey only needs provost approval to go forward. Please respond when you get it.

### **Curriculum Committee – Vice-Chair Shawn Lucas**

Curriculum Committee discussed a propose certificate program in Public Affairs Journalism. The committee suggested revisions and it will be back at the next meeting.

A senator asked if all Curriculum Committee forms are in Teams. Chair Changzheng Wang said that some forms are stuck in limbo as a result of the university presidential change. Anyone who needs help with the forms should contact him.

### **Professional Concerns Committee – Chair Gary Stratton**

PCC is working on a faculty mentoring program. Committee decided that there is no need for further action or discussion on the matter of the ten-years-experience requirement for full professor. The language of the handbook is clear and sufficient.

The committee also discussed the problem of having enrollment caps honored during registration. It was also suggested that perhaps Acting President Stamps and Vice-President Rush should hold some kind of state of the university presentation, especially for students, since rumors about the school's future are sowing confusion.

There followed an extensive discussion between Dr. Margery Coulson-Clark and various senators and guests regarding the course caps issue, where responsibility for it lies and how to remedy the problem in the future. One conclusion was that new software, approved by the Board,

will help with this issue. Another was that there will need to be clear written policies when implementing the new software to make sure that it is deployed properly and caps are honored.

## **Budget and Academic Support Committee**

### **Chair Jennifer Ballard-Kang**

Drs. Beverly Schneller, Micah Glenn and Herman Walston joined the committee at its last meeting to talk about plans for faculty grants training. A survey will come soon with training to follow. The plus or minus grading issue was closed for the foreseeable future. A report on course fees is coming soon as will recommendations on instructional spending.

### **Other Business**

There was none.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:20.

### **Attendance**

#### **Senators**

Kristopher R Grimes

Buddhi Gyawali

Phillip H Clay

Shawn Lucas

Changzheng Wang

Bruce Griffis

Barbara Witty

James Obielodan

Gary Stratton

Fariba Kashan

Bobby Walter

Gavin Washington

Daniel D Collum

Rene Desborde

Patti Marraccini

Noel Novelo

Keith McCutchen

Rozina Johnson

Jennifer Ballard-Kang

Nancy Capriles

Jens Hannemann

**Absent:** Mary Barr, Fariba Bigdeli-Jahed

#### **Guests**

Mara Merlino

Sheila Stuckey

Ken Andries

Beverly Schneller

David Shabazz

Margery Coulson-Clark

Sharon McGee

6211

Scott Wicker

Charles Holloway

Frederick A. Williams Jr.

Herman Walston

Dantrea Hampton

Maheteme

Deanna McGaughey-Summers

Eric Yang

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Samantha Todd

Keturah Nix

Leroy Hamilton, Jr.

Yun Jiang

Kirk Pomper

Maia M Langley

Dantrea Hampton

Daryl Love

Berkley N. King, Jr

Nkechi Amadife