

## Faculty Senate

August 21, 2020

9 a.m. via Blackboard Collaborate Ultra

Minutes submitted by Danny Collum, Secretary

**1. Call to order**

**2. Approval of agenda ( 5 minutes)**

Amended agenda proposed by president with addition of time for Faculty Ombudsman report and more time for “Other Business.” Motion to approve, and agenda approved as amended.

**3. Introduction of the executive committee 5 minutes**

Jason Keeler, President

Phillip Clay Vice-President

Danny Collum, Secretary

Leigh Whittinghill, Parliamentarian

Helen Smith, Ex officio member as previous year’s president

**4. Update from Academic Affairs (15 minutes)**

Dr. Yates sent a message saying that he will meet weekly with the Faculty Senate President and looks forward to working together with the Faculty Senate. Also, notice was made that all classes are to meet online the week of August 25 and that all non-instructional in-person activities for that week are cancelled.

**5. Faculty Senate President Announcements/Report 20 minutes**

**Microsoft Teams use for Senate**

Dr. Keeler has established a Microsoft Teams “Team” for the Faculty Senate. This will be used to share all Faculty Senate documents in the interest of greater transparency. All Senate members may view documents at any time and all Executive Committee members are empowered to post and edit documents.

Teams also has a chat feature that is continuous and permanent and can be used for discussion of Faculty Senate issues. During discussion a request was made that access to view documents be granted to all faculty and Dr. Keeler agreed to do this.

**Policies and issues that need to be addressed**

Dr. Keeler displayed the Teams screen for the Faculty Senate Task Planner, which shows unfinished or continuing business from last year for each standing committee. These include, among others: The need for further work on the distance education policy and the lockdown browser, Incomplete grade policy. Access to ebooks. Aligning tenure and promotion standards for various units that were moved by the recent academic affairs reorganization. External advisory councils for academic programs. Oversight of the TOPS initiative. Policy for hiring chairs and program directors (i.e. term limits? Rotation?). Possible creation of a separate standing committee for Education Technology. Other concerns raised in the course of discussion included faculty workload, especially in sciences, and the process for hiring adjunct instructors.

**6. Faculty Regent Report 10 minutes**

Dr. Moffett reported that the Board of Regents held four meetings over the summer, mostly focused on the campus re-opening.

**June 4:** Board approved an Updated Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws and the August 2019 Version of the Faculty Handbook as well as updated policies, an internal audit plan and an FY 20-21 Operating Budget of \$40,623,086, which represents a reduction of \$8 million from last year. This budget also included a cost of living pay increase for faculty. Questioned about the budget cuts and positions eliminated, Dr. Moffett said that the Board is not told about specific cuts or specific positions eliminated.

**July 7:** Board approved the reorganization of Academic Affairs. Faculty has already seen the same materials on this that were shown to the Board. Some cuts or changes were not reflected on the documents, such as the elimination of the Deputy Provost position, distribution of administrative assistants, or the total number of deans. The Board approved a contract with Capital Plaza Hotel for 56 rooms for student housing overflow and with Quest Diagnostics for Covid-19 testing. Total costs for testing are not to exceed \$340k, with testing fees of \$130-170 per administration. Also at this meeting, four new faculty hires, with tenure, were approved. These were hires made under the TOPS program. Questions were raised by senators about the cost of the Covid-19 testing, which is much higher than that at University of Kentucky, and about the TOPS program. Dr. Moffett explained that TOPS is a board initiative to give the provost flexibility in recruiting faculty in order to improve faculty diversity and to fill high-need positions. Regarding the Academic Affairs reorganization, Dr. Moffett noted that the Board has yet to see a detailed organizational chart.

**August 5:** Board approved an update of the Capital Plaza Hotel contract to include 112 rooms total. Also the president announced that, as of July 30, the University expected 1,513 students: 1,451 undergrad and 62 grad. First year students accounted for 493, and 930 were continuing.

#### **7. Faculty Ombudsman Report 5 minutes**

Ombudsman Wilfred Reilly introduced himself and explained that the ombudsman is to serve as a mediator and resolver of disputes, within faculty or between faculty and administration. He encourages all faculty to contact him via KYSU email if there are ever any issues.

#### **8. Other business 20 minutes**

Senator Helen Smith introduced a resolution addressing the reopening of on-campus instruction. The resolution notes that faculty were given the impression they could choose their method of presentation, prepared classes accordingly and then, on August 13, two days before the official start of the semester, were requested, in a message from Interim Provost Yates that all classes, to meet all scheduled in-person classes in-person, regardless of faculty members' previously expressed preferences and plans. A request that was presented without concurrent uniform protocols and procedures to address Covid-19 safety issues. The resolution states the sense of the Senate that a request for in-class instruction would ideally have been delivered much sooner than August 13 and would have come with information and resources for addressing safety concerns.

Discussion of the resolution confirmed a lack of masks or cleaning supplies available for classrooms, inadequate ventilation in one building and empty sanitation stations in the student center.

The motion passed unanimously.

Senator Danny Collum proposed a resolution calling for a national search for a permanent provost and conduct of a study to result in bringing KSU faculty salaries in line with the current market.

During discussion it emerged that the process on studying KSU salaries in relationship to peer institutions, begun in 2018, had progressed further than Senator Collum realized, and rather than calling for a study of salaries, the Senate should perhaps be calling for a timetable for implementing those changes.

Senator Collum suggested that, since his proposed language was inadequate, faculty salaries should be the subject of a separate resolution. This matter was referred to the Professional Concerns Committee.

A motion was made for the Senate to empower its executive committee to draft a new resolution calling for a national provost search. This motion passed unanimously.

#### **8. Introduction of sub-committees 10 minutes**

Dr. Keeler displayed committee assignments for 2020-2021.

#### **9. Election of subcommittee officers (15 minutes) Chair, Vice-chair and Secretary**

##### **Academic Policy Committee**

Chair: Buddhi Gyawali

Vice-Chair: Fariba Bigdeli-Jahed

Secretary: Leigh Whittinghill

##### **Professional Concerns Committee**

Chair: Monica Valentine

Vice-Chair: Bruce Griffis

Secretary: Helen Smith

##### **Curriculum Committee**

Chair: Changzheng Wang

Vice-Chair: Jonathon Sharp

Secretary: Shawn Lucas

### **Budget and Academic Support Committee**

Chair: Noel Novelo

Other officers to be determined.

### **10. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at about 11:15.

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#### **Attendance:**

#### **Senators**

	Fariba Bigdeli
Bruce Griffis	Fariba Kashan
Changzheng Wang	Gavin Washington
Daniel D Collum	Helen Smith
Dr. Donovan L. Ramon	Johnathon Sharp
Jason Michael Keeler	Kris Grimes
Jens Hannemann	Leigh Whittinghill
Nancy Del Rosario Capriles	Noel Novelo
Alexander Lai	Patti Marraccini
Barbara Witty	Prof. E. Amadife
Buddhi Gyawali	Rene Desborde
Dr. Brooks-Eaves	Sharon McGee
Dr. Monica Valentine	Shawn Lucas
Dr. Phillip Clay	
Bobby Walter	

## **GUESTS**

Beverly Schneller

April Higgins

Elgie McFayden

Jamaal Jackson

Cindy Glass

Clifton Wise

David Shabazz

Debra Tate

John Sedlacek

Joe Moffett

Kim Sipes

Lauren Graves

Sheila Stuckey

Tierra Taylor

LeChrista Finn

Shannon Brogan

Dr. Nkechi Amadife

Caller-3429?

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