

MINUTES
Faculty Senate Executive Committee
Tuesday, September 24, 2024, 3:30 pm
Union Big 12

Present: Roger Adams, Graciela Berumen, Hansin Bilgili, Carson Cuesta, Monica Curnutt, Kimm Dennis, Joel DeRouche, Teresa Douthit, Anthony Ferraro, Dan Higgins, Julia Keen, Joann Kouba, Kimberly Kramer, Sara Luly, Tereque Nasser, Abbey Nutsch, Michael Oetken, Brandon Savage, Gwen Sibley, Kimberly Staples, Phil Vardiman, Don Von Bergen, Zane Whitney

Proxies: Roger Adams = proxy for Ryan Leimkuehler

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgment (President Douthit))
2. Approval of August 27 Executive Committee minutes
3. Reports from Standing Committees, Graduate Student Council, and Senates
 - A. Academic Affairs – Joann Kouba
 - Proposed consent agenda items (page 2)

Discussion:

Senator Keen brought up concerns about the DARS Report, specifically bucket seven of the K-State Core, that is causing some confusion amongst students and advisors. Senator Kouba shared that colleges have had different approaches to this issue in terms of training. The College of Agriculture has connected with the College of Engineering to share some of the training they have done during implementation. She also shared that she is not sure what authority Academic Affairs has to force changes to the DARS, which must be made through the Registrar’s Office. Senator Keen suggested that if Academic Affairs is not the right place to discuss this issue, then perhaps this is an issue that we need to take to the Provost as a Faculty Senate issue. President Douthit requested any suggestions for improvement of DARS be sent to her so she can discuss with the appropriate group of people.

- B. Faculty Affairs – Brandon Savage

- Proposal for Handbook Changes to NNR - [NNR Handbook Proposal.docx](#)

Senator Savage presented context to the changes to the Notice of Non-Renewal (NNR) policy suggested by the committee to comply with KBOR regulations. They shared this draft with Vice President of Administration and Finance, Ethan Erickson, and Chief human Resource Officer, Shana Legleiter. A motion was made to approve the proposed policy change.

Discussion: President Douthit shared that one of the main concerns was the misalignment of the proposed policy with the KBOR policy. Further discussion focused on proposed changes to the university's dispute resolution and notice of non-reappointment policy. Some key points included limiting NNR’s to specific, non-performance-related reasons. Senator Savage suggested NNR’s should coincide with the end of the current appointment term for clarity. A suggested minimum 60-day notice for non-reappointments would allow faculty some time to make alternate arrangements. Mid-appointment NNR’s should be allowed only in exceptional circumstances, like financial issues. Some committee members were worried about potential misuse and the impact on performance evaluations.

Motion failed. The committee will revise the proposal before resubmitting it for Senate consideration.

C. Graduate Student Council – Zane Whitney
No Report.

D. JEDAll – Gwen Sibley
No Report.

E. Professional Staff Affairs – Monica Curnutt/Linda Craghead
No Report.

F. Student Senate – Carson Cuesta
No Report.

G. Technology – Phil Vardiman

Senator Vardiman shared that there will be guests attending the next faculty senate meeting to provide answers to questions surrounding an upcoming generative AI policy for K-State, mandated by the State of Kansas. This policy will clarify the use of generative AI in handling sensitive data, particularly student and staff records. While some faculty would like clear guidelines on acceptable AI usage for tasks like notetaking in meetings without restricting AI use in the classroom or research, this policy will focus on data governance.

Discussion:

Faculty members emphasized the importance of AI tools for efficiency in administrative tasks. There were calls for transparency and faculty involvement in decision-making regarding AI policy.

Senator Vardiman reminded the Senate that the IT incident report will never be public knowledge. Senators hope that administration puts shared governance at the forefront of the creation and implementation of policies related to IT, to better represent K-State faculty and staff preferences and needs.

H. University Planning – Cassie Jones/ Kimberly Kramer
No report

I. University Support Staff – Kimm Dennis
No report.

4. Announcements

A. Updates from other committees

The university is undergoing a compensation study on faculty, staff and graduate student salaries. President Douthit nominated Senator Justin Kastner to represent tenure track and Brandon Savage to represent non tenure track faculty to a related Faculty Salary Steering Committee. K-State is also participating in a program led by the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU) called “Let’s Talk Money” to discuss compensation related issues.

President Douthit shared that a Concurrent Credit Instructor Credentials Task Force was created to define the minimum credentials, experience, or both required for high school instructors to teach

courses for concurrent college credit through K-State. Currently, the Higher Learning Commission's (HLC) requirement is vague, so it is up to the institution to decide what the minimum qualifications will be.

Nathaniel Birkhead is taking the place of Andy Bennett in the Budget Model Review Committee. Colby Morberg is involved in the Inclusive Access Committee but no new updates. President Douthit encouraged all Senators to share committee updates as they see fit.

Discussion:

Senator Keen shared her concern about the concurrent credit policy and that leaving the instructor credential criteria decision to each institution creates course legitimacy concerns. Senator Adams shared the same concerns about the HLC decision and asked if any restrictions or guidance were discussed concerning the minimum acceptable course level. President Douthit shared that no minimum course level was shared at this time.

B. Open Forum – October 9, 3:30-5:00 pm, Union Forum Hall

The topic for Open Forum will revolve around physical resources. Questions will revolve primarily around university structures, and university communications and marketing will help Faculty Senate promote this open dialogue event. Everyone was encouraged to attend and invite their colleagues.

C. [KBOR meeting](#) report

KBOR will host a lunch and learn on Oct. 15, 2024, for advisors to provide an update on Math Pathways. Program review will also be discussed among Regents. Factors mentioned at the last KBOR meeting included market demand, student demand, centrality of the program to the institution's mission, role of the program on campus and cost effectiveness. There's ongoing discussion about criteria for interdisciplinary programs, how to handle graduates who pursue further education and whether the thresholds should be the same for all campuses. These were all points of discussion, not decisions.

KBOR is seeking \$273 million in state funding, which includes \$90 million purportedly for faculty salaries. However, the language has been changed to emphasize student affordability, raising concerns about how the funds may be allocated.

Faculty of the year award discussions continue to be ongoing; it was suggested to broaden the criteria for this award to include more categories of staff, non-tenured faculty and other areas of the university. There will be no KBOR meeting in Oct, the next open meeting will be in November at K-State, and Senators are welcome to attend.

President Douthit encouraged Senators to share their thoughts and themes regarding issues that she can present during the upcoming KBOR meeting.

D. The guest for October 8 Faculty Senate will be Thomas Bunton.

Provost Mendez will also be present, and Senator Savage suggested that we give feedback on the Strategic Enrollment Plan.

Senator Keen also requested that he provide data that answers the previous two questions he was asked during the September Faculty Senate Meeting.

Senator Jones shared that FSCOUP is looking at how inclusive colleges are being with faculty in developing their strategic plans and workload policies. Involvement of faculty varies by college.

E. Staff Night at K-State Soccer – Sept 26, Buser Stadium, 7pm

5. Adjournment at 4:48 pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 29, 2024

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
PROPOSED ITEMS FOR CONSENT AGENDA

Approve to place the following course and curriculum changes on the upcoming Faculty Senate consent agenda:

A. COURSE AND CURRICULUM PROPOSALS:

To view the proposals in Curriculog,

First - Login to Curriculog using your K-State eID and password
<https://kstate.curriculog.com>

Second - Go to the course or curriculum agenda at links listed below.

- From the list of proposals, hover over the proposal and click View/Edit Proposal Icon
- In User Tracking, change "Show current" to "Show current with markup"
- View the proposal
- Use the browser back button to return to the agenda and select next proposal

For more information on viewing proposals, see:

<http://www.k-state.edu/curriculog/training/view/index.html>

COURSES: *<https://kstate.curriculog.com/agenda:2456/form> (*copy and paste the link into your browser if clicking on it gives you an error message)

Agriculture	AGED - 635 - Inquiry and Literacy in Agricultural STEM and Biotechnology
Arts & Sciences	Aerospace Studies (Minor) BIOL -333 – Introduction to Fisheries, Wildlife, Conservation & Environmental Biology BIOL - 513 - Physiological Adaptations of Animals ECON -101 - Contemporary Economic Issues PHILO - 138 - Ethics and Social Media
Business Admin	MIS - 756 - Business Data Pipelines MIS - 830 - Business Intelligence and Storytelling in Cloud Environments
Engineering	ME - 710 - Intermediate Topics in Interdisciplinary Systems Analysis ME - 711 - Interdisciplinary Seminar
Health & Human Sciences	Human Nutrition (Ph.D.)
Staley School of Leadership	LEAD - 701 - Foundations of Leadership
Vet Med	Master of Public Health (M.P.H.)