

## MINUTES

### Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Tuesday, October 29, 2024, 3:30 pm

BB 4061

**Present:** Graciela Berumen, Hansin Bilgili, Linda Craghead, Carson Cuesta, Brad Cunningham, Monica Curnutt, Kimm Dennis, Teresa Douthit, Anthony Ferraro, Dan Higgins, Cassie Jones, Julie Keen, Justin Kastner, Joann Kouba, Kimberly Kramer, Ryan Leimkuehler, Sara Luly, Colby Moorberg, Tareque Nasser, Abbey Nutsch, Michael Oetken, Sujatha Prakash, Brandon Savage, Gwen Sibley, Kimberly Staples, Mary Sullivan, Andy Thompson, Phil Vardiman, Don Von Bergen, Zane Whitney

**Absent:** Nicky Cassel, Joel DeRouchey, Barbara Wigfall

**Proxies:** Justin Kastner for Nicky Cassel, Cassie Jones for Joel DeRouchey,

#### Guests/Visitors:

1. President Teresa Douthit called the meeting to order, and the Land Acknowledgment was played.
2. Approval of September 24 Executive Committee minutes

President Douthit inquired if there were any edits or corrections to the minutes. Seeing none and with no objection, the minutes stood approved as submitted.

#### 3. Report from Standing Committees, Graduate Student Council, and Senates

##### A. Academic Affairs – Joann Kouba/Hansin Bilgili

Proposed consent agenda items (page 2-3) - Senator Kouba moved to place the consent agenda items on the upcoming Faculty Senate agenda. Motion carried.

Senator Kouba shared that a meeting with Dr. Tanya Gonzalez and Kelley Brundage was scheduled to begin discussions on Math Pathways changes.

Senator Kouba reported that the committee discussed the need for updates to the ARN, and this task has been added to the committee's to-do list.

##### B. Faculty Affairs – Brad Cunningham/Brandon Savage

- Proposal for Handbook Changes to NNR - Update

Senator Savage reported that the main topic of discussion for FAC was the Notice of Non-Reappointment (NNR) for Faculty and Staff. President Douthit shared that Provost Mendez is likely to agree to a 90-day notice of non-reappointment that would occur 90 days prior to the end of an academic semester and the end of a faculty member's contract. The proposal for a similar notice linked to the end of an annual contract for regular staff was not supported by Provost Mendez. He will meet with Faculty Senate leadership on Thursday to discuss further. Senators requested more information on how other institutions handle similar policies.

Discussion ensued. Senators shared that they would like to see the implementation of the same policy for both faculty and staff, Senators also acknowledged that the university needs to balance flexibility with the need to attract and retain employees

#### C. Graduate Student Council – Zane Whitney

Senator Whitney reported that Graduate Student Council was preparing to host Research and the state. Ninety-five students were registered to participate and 10 representatives for K-State at the Capitol will be selected.

An update on the Hale Library Graduate Student Spaces was provided. One space for graduate students has been removed and replaced with academic offices. The second space reserved for graduate students is also being phased out, though no official timeline has been given. Provost Mendez and library staff are working on interim solutions for graduate student space in Hale Library.

#### D. JEDAll – Gwen Sibley

Senator Sibley reported that JEDAll discussed the Open Forum and the need for high-level conversations regarding space usage.

JEDAll also discussed tenure policies and issues raised by teaching staff, with plans to use data to inform future policy recommendations.

#### E. Professional Staff Affairs – Monica Curnutt/Linda Craghead

Senator Curnutt reported that PSA met with Dr. Marshall Stewart to request financial support for the Docking survey for 2025. A PSA subcommittee will collaborate with HR and other leadership to develop new questions for the survey with the goal of aligning the questions with broader NextGen initiatives, especially in areas related to becoming an employer of choice. The holiday break for staff has not been officially announced but is likely to continue. It must be voted on each year at the KBOR level. Concerns were raised about the perceived approachability of administrators during the Open Forum.

Committee discussion included a mention of the grievance process for employees, specifically how it can be used if someone is dismissed

#### F. Student Senate – Carson Cuesta

A Resolution was passed by SGA (Attachment 1) to improve student access to printing at Kansas State University, with the goal of eventually making printing free for students. There was discussion among Senators regarding printing costs and usage by students. Senator Cuesta moved that this resolution be placed on the agenda for the upcoming Faculty Senate meeting, with SGA hoping to obtain endorsement for this resolution from Faculty Senate. Motion carried, but not unanimously. Senators encouraged further data and cost analyses to be available during the Faculty Senate discussion.

Senator Cuesta also reported that SGA issued a resolution to update the university's smoking policy to include clearer language regarding vaping.

#### G. Technology – Phil Vardiman, Abby Nutsch

Senator Nutsch reported that Student Senate representatives expressed concerns about a lack of clarity regarding AI usage policies, particularly in classroom settings. The students suggested that course syllabi should explicitly mention AI usage policies to provide clearer guidance.

#### H. University Planning – Cassie Jones/Kimberly Kramer

Senators were asked to provide feedback on the Campus Master Plan. The online form for providing feedback is still open until Friday, and further feedback will be gathered during a meeting with Ethan Erickson on November 7th.

#### I. University Support Staff – Kimm Dennis

Senator Dennis reported that the USS website and mission statement are being updated, with the draft mission statement already submitted to the review committee.

### 5. Announcements

#### A. Updates from other committees

The process for the Budget Model Review Process has changed. Originally, it was going to be led by Ethan Erickson, but now it will be led by Provost Mendez. A Steering Committee has been established to oversee the process.

#### B. Guests for Nov 12 Faculty Senate will be Thomas Bunton to talk about IT and cybersecurity, and Dr. Kimathi Choma to talk about the Student Ombudsperson Office.

### 6. Open Discussion

The Kansas Board of Regents did not meet in October but will meet in November. It was noted that KBOR meetings are open to the public, but there is no opportunity for public comment. All communications must go through President Linton or President Flanders.

The School of Applied and Interdisciplinary Studies at Olathe is proposing a name change to the College of Applied and Professional Studies. The proposal has been sent to the deans for feedback. If this change is approved, it will lead to some restructuring within the Senate.

There was discussion related to the Open Forum and how to make it better in the future.

There was concern expressed about the \$90 million part of KBOR's unified legislative request originally specified to support salaries now labeled for student affordability. Senators called for a commitment from the administration about how these funds would be used, highlighting the need for assurance from leadership regarding their commitment to support salaries on campus if the legislative request is approved.

There is still time to sign up for the fall clean-up event. Participants are encouraged to join, and those interested should do so soon.

7. Adjournment 4:39 pm

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 26, 2024; 3:30 pm, Room BB 4061