

MINUTES

KSU Faculty Senate Meeting

Tuesday, November 12, 2024, 3:30 pm

K-State Student Union, Big 12 room

In Person: Paige Adams, Grand Alford, Graciela Berumen, Hansin Bilgili, Kyle Bradley, Nicolette Cassel, Carson Cuesta, Monica Curnutt, Joel DeRouchey, Brandie Disberger, Elizabeth Dodd, Teresa Douthit, Pamela Erickson, Anthony Ferraro, Bret Flanders, Trisha Gott, Amy Hageman, Dan Higgins, Laura Hohenbary, Dan Ireton (Parliamentarian), Chris Jones, Julia Keen, Marcus Kidd, Joann Kouba, Kimberly Kramer, Sherri Martinie, Jason Maseberg-Tomlinson, Susan Maxwell, Megan McCoy, Tareque Nasser, Edward Nowlin, Abbey Nutsch, Brandon Savage, Martha Smith Caldas, Lisa Tatonetti, Phil Vardiman, Jessie Vipham, Don Von Bergen, Paige Vulgamore, Kevin Wanklyn, Andy Wefald, Zane Whitney, La Barbara Wigfall, Lisa Wilken.

On Zoom: Roger Adams, Kristin Anders, Mike Apley, Amir Bahadori, Sonya Baker, Elizabeth Berney, John Blair, Ashley Blake, Amy Brusik, Marcellus Caldas, Don Crawford, Brad Cunningham, Kimm Dennis, Jessica Falcone, Bill Genreux, Bruce Glymour, Sandy Johnson, Justin Kastner, Mary Kohn, Ryan Leimkuehler, Grace Liang, Shane Lyon, Erin Martinez, Eve McCulloch, Laurel Moody, Ashley Noll, Michael Oetken, Sujatha Prakash, Dave Renter, Marci Ritter, Merta Scott-Hall, Eric Shappee, Andrew Smith, Andy Thompson, Elliot Young, Becca Zecha

Proxies: Dan Higgins for Christer Aakeroy, Nicolette Cassel for Chris Blevins, Joel DeRouchey for Rachael Clews, Deborah Kohl and Judy O'Mara, Monica Curnutt for Linda Craghead, Jessica Falcone for Rachel Levitt, Cassie Jones for KC Olson, Roger Adams for Gwen Sibley, Andy Wefald for Kimberly Staples

Guests: Scott Finkeldei, Kari Morgan, Carolyn Jackson

1. The meeting was called to order by President Teresa Douthit and the Land Acknowledgement was played.

2. Thomas Bunton, Chief Technology Officer

Thomas Bunton shared IT updates underway to reduce risk, align standards, improve cyber security, and create a standard as One K-State. Currently there are eight IT directors, with five more expected to be hired soon.

He informed Senators that the university is adopting a "Zero Trust" model, where only devices issued by the university will be trusted to access its systems. The university is working on balancing secure access with specialized software needs while ensuring system integrity.

Finally, Thomas Bunton warned faculty and staff about a surge in scams, especially with phishing emails that may look legitimate. There was a mention of a recent scam email that appeared to come from a K-State address but was fraudulent. The key message was to be cautious and report any suspicious activity, especially around the holiday season.

Discussion: There were inquiries regarding whether faculty could purchase new devices (e.g., through the bookstore) to be used for university work. University-purchased devices are pre-configured with

security measures, while personally bought devices may require additional encryption and setup. Devices purchased through consumer outlets (like Best Buy or Amazon) may not be secure without additional encryption, which the university can provide. There was further discussion about the distinction between who pays for the devices—whether it's the university or the individual. It was emphasized that the university prefers to own the devices to ensure proper software licensing and control. This helps maintain security, especially if a person leaves the institution, ensuring the software and device remain under university control.

Concerns were voiced about the balance between productivity and security; the fear is that with the new security implementations it will take longer for the faculty and staff to do their work.

3. Dr. Choma – Student Ombudsperson Office Resources & Services

Dr. Choma shared about his role as student Ombudsperson. This role focuses on conflict resolution, navigating difficult conversations, and guiding students through university policies and procedures. The Ombudsperson also addresses grievances with professors, housing, financial needs, social justice, and student access issues - serving as a neutral party that supports students in finding solutions while maintaining confidentiality. Since April 2021, he has worked with 87 students, and his office continues to track demographic data to monitor trends in student concerns. He encouraged faculty and staff to refer students who may benefit from his services.

Discussion: It was noted that female students utilize the service more frequently than male students. It was also noted that the student Ombuds office had helped resolve conflicts in a manner that prevented them from rising to the student grievance board. Due to time constraints, most of Dr. Choma's interactions with students from Salina and Olathe occur via Zoom, although he is available for in-person meetings if requested.

4. October 8 meeting minutes – The minutes were approved as read.

5. Approval of Academic Affairs Consent Agenda – Senator Von Bergen for President Elect Sara Luly (Pages 2-3)

Senator Von Bergen noted that the course COT 175 - Introduction to Cultural Studies from K-State Salina was mistakenly included in the consent agenda. This course was tabled at the Academic Affairs committee, so it was removed from the items for approval.

The consent agenda, as edited, was approved.

6. Report from Standing Committees

A. Academic Affairs – Joann Kouba/Hansin Bilgili

The committee reviewed a growing list of course and curriculum proposals at their November 5th meeting. The committee also met with Vice Provost Mohr-Schroeder; the discussion centered on how her office can collaborate with Academic Affairs moving forward.

The committee has initiated work on math pathways, and they expect to have updates within the next couple of months.

Discussion: Senators questioned the course selection process in the K-State Core, especially when courses are renumbered or changed (e.g., Architecture 301). The General Education Council is discussing what will be done when 300-level courses get re-numbered as 100-level courses. The current process for this isn't clear, and it may involve a variance for adjustments.

B. Faculty Affairs – Brad Cunningham/Brandon Savage

Senator Savage shared that changes to the Notice of Non-Reappointment (NNR) will be reviewed for consistency across university documents, and that the Faculty Affairs Committee will finalize the revisions for presentation at the next Faculty Senate meeting. When an NNR is issued to non-tenure track faculty, the NNR will be issued 90 days before the end of their contract (spring semester for nine-month contracts, fiscal year end for twelve-month contracts). Staff may receive a 90-day NNR at any time during the year. He also shared that a notice of non-reappointment can be used for performance-related reasons, and if used this way, it will be eligible for the grievance process.

Faculty Affairs also is working on an expedited process for Handbook changes. It focuses on minor revisions, such as correcting typos or changing department names. This proposal will be presented at the next faculty senate meeting for discussion and potential approval.

C. Graduate Student Council – Zane Whitney

Senator Whitney shared that this year's Research and the State event had 84 participants out of 95 sign-ups, marking it the largest turnout so far. The next research event will take place during the spring semester and will include both poster and oral presentations.

An update about the graduate student spaces in the library was delivered. One room has been removed, but additional space on the third floor is being allocated for graduate student use. The room will remain open to graduate students until renovations, which are expected to take a couple of months, begin.

D. Justice, Equity, Diversity, Access, Inclusion, and Identity – Graciela Berumen/Gwen Sibley

Senator Berumen discussed the Open Forum and the need for high-level conversations regarding space usage, including concerns about spaces like the International Student Center and communication to faculty and staff before decisions are made.

The committee also discussed the possibility of creating a tenure-like policy for teaching faculty in the Faculty Senate Handbook or similar formal process to provide more protection for Teaching Faculty and ability to move up the career ladder. In addition to collecting data to support this policy proposal, the committee also looked at other institutions. The University of California offers Teaching Professors "Security of Employment."

E. Professional Staff Affairs – Monica Curnutt/Linda Craghead

The committee discussed the potential loss of leave hours if staff do not use them before being paid out. Currently the maximum vacation accrual is 304 hours, but the payout is set at 170

hours. It was suggested to give staff who receive a NNR time to reduce their vacation hours if they are at - or near - the cap.

Professional Staff Affairs will meet with human resources to review the Docking surveys prior to distribution to ensure they are valuable for future decision-making. The committee also raised concerns about survey fatigue and the importance of conducting meaningful surveys that will provide useful data for making decisions.

F. Student Senate – Carson Cuesta

Senator Cuesta shared that Student Senate is in the process of a first reading on the educational opportunity fund, funding bills that support graduate teaching assistantships and scholarships for underrepresented groups in higher education, including ethnic minorities and rural communities. A proposal for the operating agreement for the Student Union from FY 2026 to FY 2028 was also presented to SGA along with allocation for sports clubs on campus.

Senator Cuesta moved that Faculty Senate endorse SGA resolution R242523 regarding free printing on campus for faculty, staff and students. Senator Cuesta yielded the floor to student senator, Phillip Shirkey. Shirkey shared details about the proposal. The proposal called for 30 pages per week per user, with a maximum of 150 pages at a time, essentially unlimited printing. The goal is to seek supplemental funding from the Office of the Provost in the first fiscal year (next year), with future funding discussions handled by IT. The proposal received strong student support among students. The long-term funding would likely come from a generic fee assessed to all students, ensuring that the financial burden is spread across the broader university community rather than specific programs or majors. The goal is to shift the cost from individual students who require extensive printing (due to the nature of their courses) to the broader university community, making it a shared responsibility.

Senators noted that engineering students already pay for unlimited printing through their program fees, so there are concerns that the broader university community absorbing the printing costs could lead to hidden costs for engineering students. Additionally, the current free printing system in engineering has led to wastefulness, which raises concerns about the university's environmental impact and sustainability goals.

Further concerns were raised that while the proposal aims to provide unlimited free printing, concerns over its financial impact, hidden costs for specific student groups, and the environmental consequences were discussed.

The question was called. Motion failed and the Faculty Senate will not endorse the resolution at this time.

G. Technology – Abbey Nutsch/Phil Vardiman

The committee met with members of the Student Government Association (SGA) to discuss a potential AI syllabus statement. The provost's office has not mandated anything, but SGA is interested in developing a campus-wide policy. The committee plans to continue working with the SGA to refine this idea.

Senator Nutsch also shared that there have been concerns about not onboarding new employees quickly, particularly for access to K-State's Canvas system, email, and IDs. Solutions are being explored to streamline the process, though the specifics vary by department.

The committee also reminded the senate that there is an exemption process for individuals who need administrative privileges on their computers, ensuring there is flexibility where necessary. They urged faculty and staff to remain vigilant with cybersecurity.

H. University Planning – Cassie Jones/Kimberly Kramer

Senator Kramer shared that the committee did not meet but plans discuss college workload policies and review each college's policy during their next meeting.

I. University Support Staff Senate – Kimm Dennis

Senator Dennis reported the committee had updated their website and Faculty Senate was urged to take a look and discuss.

7. Announcements

A. KBOR meeting report – Teresa Douthit

KBOR did not meet last month, but recent virtual meetings discussed math pathways and corequisite requirements for English. They are working on an initiative designed to allow high school students to take 15 credit hours of college coursework for free.

B. Communication with regents ahead of Nov 22 mtg – Teresa Douthit

President Douthit reminded Senators about KBOR's Fall Board Meeting on Nov. 20th, 1:30-5:00 PM in the KSU Rooms at the Union (open to observe, no public comment period). All communication with KBOR you must go through KSU President Linton and KBOR President Flanders.

C. Budget Model Review Process

President Douthit provided updates on the budget model review process, previously under Ethan Erickson's supervision, now under the office of the provost.

D. Student Contest – Enhancing Outdoor Spaces

A positive outcome from the Open Forum was that four faculty university experts will help evaluate student proposals for the outdoor space competition.

Senators Wigfall, Vardiman and Kramer expressed gratitude to those who advocated for faculty involvement in evaluating student proposals for the outdoor space competition. They also commended the university's quick response in organizing this faculty review process.

8. Open discussion period for senators | New Initiatives | For the Good of the University

President Douthit and Senator Berumen encouraged Senators to attend the provost panel discussion and lunch during KSUUnite.

9. Adjournment 5:00 pm

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 10, 2024; 3:30 pm, Union Big 12 Room