

**FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**February 13, 2025 – 2:30 pm**  
**Magnolia Room, Morris University Center**  
**Approved Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee was called to order at 2:30 pm on Thursday, February 13, 2025 in the Magnolia Room by President Marcus Agustin.

**Present:** Marcus Agustin, Wai Cheah, Kevin Cannon, Keith Hecht, Tim Kalinowski, Jon Pettibone, Chrissy Simmons, Cinnamon VanPutte, Amy Winn

**Guests:** Denise Cobb, Elza Ibroscheva, Tom Jordan

**Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

**Consideration of Minutes:**

The minutes for the January 23, 2025 FSEC meeting were approved as written.

**Guests:**

Provost Denise Cobb, Associate Provost Elza Ibroscheva, and Coordinator for Policy Tom Jordan spoke to FSEC about several topics.

- I. Elza provided an update on the HLC process. As a part of this, there was a student survey distributed to the student body back in January. We received 1,088 responses. The mean scores for many of the questions were positive and were above 4.0. Examples: Faculty who teach are knowledgeable about their subject areas – **4.37**; Faculty are available when I need help – **4.24**; Overall, I am satisfied with my experience at the school – **4.06**. The qualitative comments summary includes issues with Academic Advising, specifically receiving inconsistent information and lack of program specific knowledge; concerns about financial aid costs; comments on professors, both positive and negative, including teaching styles, quality, engagement and communication; concerns about DEI – while SIUE promotes diversity, some students feel that biases and stereotypes exist among staff members and departments.
- II. Denise gave an update about the federal grants freeze and executive orders from the White House. We are working closely with our counterparts in the SIU System to make sure we are coordinated and thoughtful in our approach. Thanks to Liz Cali, Interim Associate Dean of the Graduate School, and Katie Eilers, Director of Award Management, for all the behind the scenes work they are doing.
- III. Denise provided an update to the Program Prioritization presentation given at last week's Faculty Senate meeting. To clarify, April 1 is not the first date to receive proposals. March 3 is the target date for the first proposal; April 1 is the target date for completing Phase 1 proposals. The proposal and their associated timelines will align

with collective bargaining agreements (per FA, section 19), as stated in University Policies 1B2, 1B3, and 5A2. The review and feedback period, which will include an open forum, will occur within 90 days. The proposal will then go to the Board of Trustees. Denise is willing to share data to Faculty Senate on a special SharePoint that is password protected.

**Announcements:**

There were no announcements.

**Unfinished Business:**

- a. Update on approval of Teaching Excellence Award Committee Operating Papers – Still waiting on approval from the Provost and Chancellor.
- b. Proposed changes to Governance Council Operating Papers – will be an action item during the March Faculty Senate meeting.
- c. Retired and Emeriti Faculty policy – Keith discussed the email thread from Laura Bernaix regarding emeriti faculty being unable to download new versions of Microsoft Office on their computers. It appears that ITS does still allow emeriti faculty to use Microsoft Office 365 with their SIUE account, just not the standalone Microsoft Office suite, which is a Microsoft licensing issue. After discussion, FSEC decided not to consider revising the policy at this time.
- d. Updates on HLC Accreditation visit (March 31-April 1) – Elza reminded FSEC that faculty are strongly encouraged to be on campus the dates of the HLC visit, March 31 and April 1.

**New Business:**

- a. Faculty Senator elections – will take place as usual. FYI – several current Council Chairs are up for election.
- b. Election of Faculty Senate President-elect – ITS has been contacted to set up a Qualtrics for the Faculty Senate President-elect. As of now, the only candidate is Sue Wiediger.
- c. Budgetary Information (received by BFAO) – so far, the BFAO Council has focused on summer class offerings and revenue sharing. The BFAOC is concerned that the significant reduction in the number of summer classes offered will present a problem for student progress. In recent years, progress towards graduation has been emphasized by the Chancellor on numerous occasions. The use of revenue sharing funds is left up to individual units or departments. This has resulted in an inconsistency in resources provided to faculty for teaching online courses. There are a variety of items that could provide assistance to faculty in teaching online classes that the university is not providing.
- d. Director of General Education; Director of Assessment; General Education Committee – after the feedback from Elza at last week's Faculty Senate meeting, we will soon re-launch the searches for these positions.

**Reports:**

**UPBC:** Provost Cobb will speak at next Thursday's meeting regarding Program Prioritization.

**Curriculum Council:** Still waiting on information from Elza for two of the program reviews.

**Faculty Development Council:** CIC will be tomorrow. The title is *AI: Policy, Potential, & Pedagogy*. The speaker is Dr. Jennifer Friberg from Illinois State University.

**Governance Council:** Surveys went out. An observation: it will be harder to get willing faculty to serve on Faculty Senate if we continue to have other constituency groups added.

**Welfare & Adjudication Council:** Faculty Grievance Committee is up and running.

**President-Elect:** Make sure we are all involved. We must do our share as Faculty Senators.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:26 pm.

Submitted by Michael Tadlock-Jackson, University Governance