

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
February 27, 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 2:33 pm on Thursday, February 27, 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: Liz Cali, Duff Wrobbel

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Consideration of Minutes:

There was a mistake on the February 13, 2025 meeting minutes—**Unfinished Business, b**, which has been edited to note that the Governance Council Operating Papers will be an action item during the March full Faculty Senate meeting. The edited meeting minutes were approved as amended.

Guest:

Interim Associate Dean for the Graduate School Liz Cali spoke to FSEC about a Dual MBA International Partnership Pathway Pilot. Liz spoke in depth about what this pilot program was and what benefits SIUE in the short and long-term. This two-year pilot establishes a dual MBA International Partnership Pathway aligned with globally recognized universities. This initiative enhances SIUE's mission to foster a student-centered, diverse educational community while addressing strategic goals of enrollment growth, global collaboration, and accessibility. Liz answered questions from FSEC: this would have to be a face-to-face program with nine credit hours per semester; international students must meet our other admission requirements.

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. Update on approval to Changes to Policy 1Q8 (Implementation and Administrative Responsibility Policy) – Still waiting on approval from the Provost and Chancellor.
- c. Proposed changes to Governance Council Operating Papers – Will be brought forth as an action item in March full Faculty Senate meeting.

- d. Retired and Emeriti Faculty Policy – Laura Bernaix will attend the next Welfare & Adjudication Council meeting to talk about the Emerita Faculty College.
- e. Election of Faculty Senate President-elect – poll closes at the end of today. We will announce the winner at our March meeting.

New Business:

- a. EASE Survey: Tim Kalinowski pointed out that the generated emails that go to students are cloned to look as though they come directly from the faculty member, which is being done without the faculty member's knowledge or consent. There was a discussion about issues related to Starfish. Marcus will invite someone from the Office of Retention/Student Success to an upcoming FSEC meeting.
- b. Request for Exception – EdD Curriculum Changes: Marcus Agustin reviewed a message from Jill Smucker in the Graduate School regarding the request for exception. Per Jill: "This request is not to approve the changes themselves, but rather the timing of the implementation. Policy 1Q8 states that changes that 'create stricter graduation requirements' should be fully approved by January 3 in order to be fully implemented in the following Fall semester. Because one part of this program change proposal includes adding a course to the EdD Superintendent track graduation requirements, implementation in Fall 2025 requires an exception to be granted. The policy outlines the exception procedures as needing approval by Graduate Council (granted last week), Faculty Senate, and the appropriate administrative officer. As the justification mentions, the program believes the additional course in the curriculum will better prepare students for their doctoral research project, which will hopefully improve those reports are quite long."
- c. Accrued Leave Donation policy: Keith Hecht summarized the Welfare & Adjudication Council's response to the Accrued Leave Donation policy. Overall, the Council supports the new policy in concept. However, they are concerned about the potential impact that donating accrued sick leave can have on SURS retirement calculations. The Council believes that this impact should be made clear to those who would consider donating accrued sick leave. Other concerns include recommending standardization of the name of the committee (Paid Leave Committee vs. Accrued Donation Leave Committee are both used in the original document); standardization of language throughout the policy when describing time; would like to see the establishment of an appeal process to be utilized in the case that an employee requesting donated leave is rejected.
- d. Program Prioritization: Duff Wrobbel spoke to FSEC about a proposal to condense the number of schools and colleges from nine to five. FSEC asked questions regarding the proposal, including how it would affect individual accreditations, specifically within the professional schools.
- e. Council Chairs for 2025-2026: As a reminder, we need to present the Council Chairs by the May Faculty Senate meeting.

Reports:

UPBC: Provost Cobb spoke at last Thursday's meeting regarding Program Prioritization. Didn't have time to discuss proposal to limit the number of voting member, so tabled until March meeting.

Curriculum Council: Had a program review at our February meeting. Will check in with Liz Cali. Marcus will check in with Denise regarding what needs to be done to start what needs to be done to start the search committee for the Director of Gen Ed.

Graduate Council: Provost Cobb hasn't made the announcement yet, but it was revealed at the BOT meeting that Dr. Chris Slaten was selected as the next Dean of the Graduate School.

Governance Council: Surveys results are back. Two people are working on the results.

President-Elect: Neither of the three professional schools will participate in the syllabi bank because they do not feel it is necessary because of their accreditation requirements. Still waiting to hear back from SEHKB.

President: Attended University Quality Council on February 20. The HLC assurance arguments are being finalized. Met with Provost Cobb on February 12—discussed how the academic program prioritization will proceed and emphasized the need to follow a robust timeline to ensure that Faculty Senate involvement will be followed due to the upcoming end of the academic year. Met with Chancellor Minor on February 25—spoke about academic program prioritization and how important the process is without being on financial exigency; asked the Chancellor about non-academic prioritizations, informed it will happen, but need to follow current CBA; Chancellor emphasized the need to act in a timely manner and, if necessary, for the Faculty Senate to consider meeting between spring 2025 semester and fall 2025 semester—reminded the Chancellor that some faculty are not on contract during summer 2025, some terms of senators will expire at the end of May 15, and new senators won't start until mid-August. Met with Constituency Heads on February 25—discussed academic prioritization, information on upcoming email to be sent to the university on budget-related matter (early retirement incentive program; organizational restructuring; university budget reporting); discussed two Student Government resolutions (syllabi bank; week 15 grading freeze).

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:26 pm.

Submitted by Michael Tadlock-Jackson, University Governance