

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
August 28, 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, August 28, 2025 in the Magnolia Room by President Wai Cheah.

Present: **President** Wai Cheah, **Past President** Marcus Agustin, **President-Elect** Sue Wiediger, Leah Baecht, Igor Crk, Tim Kalinowski, Jon Pettibone, Chrissy Simmons, Gloria Sweida, Kevin Tucker, Amy Winn

Absent: None

Guests: Denise Cobb, Christopher Slaten

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Guests:

Provost Denise Cobb welcomed FSEC for their continued support on Faculty Senate and leadership roles. Then, provided the following campus updates.

- i. HLC Accreditation – We received a positive accreditation status with no monitoring or sanctions. Thanks to everyone who contributed to either Team or Open Forum meetings. The honest and constructive feedback impressed the external HLC committee, showing that the campus cares about the institution’s well-being and our efforts on behalf of students.
- ii. Enrollment – Looks good! We’re still awaiting the tenth day, but we’re trending positively. We’ll hear more after Labor Day, when enrollment data is available after sharing it with the SIU System President’s Office and the Illinois Governor’s Office. Provost Cobb discussed direct entry and outreach activities, including investing in recruiters in Chicago. Dr. Andy Benoit, the new Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management, and the ESRA team were praised.
- iii. Program Prioritization Update – We’ve had a productive summer. We completed three MOUs with the NTTFA and the FA regarding Physics, Biochemistry Processing, and Art History. Regarding the other programs identified in Phase 1 of Program Prioritization, Provost Cobb respected the process and didn’t speculate since they’re still under consideration.
- iv. Program Prioritization Phase 2 – Please see below in **Unfinished Business, item E** for the minutes taken during that update.
- v. Transfer Policy – Elza wants to work with us on our Transfer Policy. It’s restrictive compared to other institutions, and we’d like to discuss rethinking some parts.

Graduate School Dean and Associate Provost for Research, Christopher Slaten, recently joined SIUE. He previously served as department chair at the University of Missouri, Columbia, and faculty member in the department of Educational Psychology. As Graduate School Dean, Dr. Slaten surveyed faculty about their experience with his office regarding research grant writing and support. Based on this feedback, they're launching programming this Fall. Some of this includes building a sense of community for graduate students, rolling out a cohort design program for junior or mid-career faculty interested in grant writing, and holding informative sessions in the Center for Faculty Development & Innovation. Dr. Slaten is also interested in purchasing subscriptions to Candid and Pivot, databases for finding funding based on discipline.

Consideration of Minutes:

The May 8, 2025 meeting minutes were approved as written.

Announcements:

The 2025 Faculty Collaboration Award recipients have been informed, but their names will be revealed after the September SIU Board of Trustees meeting on Thursday, September 18, on the East St. Louis campus.

Unfinished Business:

- a. Update on approval to Changes to Policy 1Q8 (Implementation and Administrative Responsibility Policy) – still waiting on approval from the Provost and Chancellor.
- b. Update on approval to changes to Retired/Emeritus Faculty Policy – still waiting on approval from the Provost and Chancellor.
- c. Update on approval to changes to Policy 1C1 (Guidelines for Course Categories, Class Scheduling and Publications) – still waiting on approval from the Provost and Chancellor.
- d. Update on approval to changes to Policy 1H1 (General Education Program) – still waiting on approval from the Provost and Chancellor.
- e. Program Prioritizations: Phase 2 – Provost Cobb provided an update on Program Prioritization and Phase 2. We modified Phase 2 to collaborate on repositioning programs and resolving issues to avoid another process. Phase 2 doesn't involve closing programs. The Office of the Provost will work with Faculty Senate to expedite reviews. Departmental proposals addressing Phase 2 concerns must be submitted to their respective Dean by **February 1, 2026**. A committee consisting of the UPBC Chair, Faculty Senate President, Grad Council Chair, and Student Government President will review the proposals and make recommendations to the Provost by **April 15, 2026**.

New Business:

- a. Appointments – Wai Cheah presented the following Faculty Senate appointments for FSEC approval. Some of these searches did not allow for a standard turnaround process

to find interested committee members. The following appointments were approved by acclamation:

- i. Academic Suspension Appeals Committee – Dr. Thomas Foster
 - ii. Director of Government and Community Relations Search Committee – Professor Michael Stumbras
 - iii. Director of Institute for Community Justice and Racial Equity Search Committee – Professor Rodrick Whetstone
 - iv. Associate Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance Search Committee – Dr. Scott Sellnow-Richmond
- b. Open Meetings Act – as a reminder, a designee is needed for each Council.
 - c. Faculty Senate Vacant Seats and Council Assignments – FSEC talked extensively about the current list of Faculty Senate members, which has 13 vacant seats. After a discussion, it was determined to strategically place Senators in Councils, keeping Councils at their minimums but appointing people who are likely to attend Council meetings so that the meetings maintain quorum. Wai Cheah will distribute an updated listing after the meeting.

Reports:

UPBC: Jon Pettibone shared a draft UPBC Strategic Plan proposal to move the Council forward. Jon will discuss it in detail at the next FSEC meeting.

Faculty Development Council: The CFDI has recently established new Fellow positions. This summer, they brought in Changemakers Fellows, Teaching Excellence Fellows, and IMPACT Pathways Fellows. The Changemakers Fellows positions went to Shannon McCarragher (Geography) and Pam Williams (ITS). The Teaching Excellence Fellows position went to Allison Sauerwein (Public Health and Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology). The IMPACT Pathways Fellows position went to Liz Stygar (Sociology). Amy Reed stepped down as TEAC Chair, and Erin Vanderbunt was voted in by FDC, so TEAC is now operational for the semester.

Governance Council: Evaluations begin early this Academic Year. What should we do with the standing committee representing each Council? (Answer: This Council.)

President-Elect: If there are any Councils or Committees I should be serving on, please let me know.

Past President: Met with Elza over the summer to discuss the outcome of our All-Faculty Meeting discussions and the possibility of UPBC and UQC merging.

President: Met with Drs. Gireesh Gupchup and Khalid Meksem on August 22 to discuss the 2025 Faculty Collaboration Award and the Faculty Advisory Committee. Met with Staff Senate President Steven Green on August 21 to discuss potential collaborative efforts between the two Senates. Met with Chancellor Minor on August 12 to discuss the Faculty Senate Agenda and Phase 1 of the Program Prioritization. Attended the June 3 Constituency Heads Meeting on behalf of Marcus Agustin and participated in the New Student Convocation on August 15.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:31 pm.

Submitted by Michael Tadlock-Jackson, University Governance