FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
September 25, 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, September 25, 2025 in the Magnolia Room by President Wai Cheah.

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

Public Comment:
There was no public comment.

Guests:
Dr. Elza Ibroscheva, Associate Provost for Accreditation, Assessment and Academic Planning, spoke to FSEC regarding two topics:

- Through a joint charge with the Faculty Senate, a working group of faculty, staff, and administrators, has been meeting weekly since January (Elizabeth Kamper, Mario Hayek, Tyann Cherry, Judy Liesveld, Jeremy Baker, Elza Ibroscheva, Pat Sears, Zenia Agustin, Angela Andrews). Discussion topics include (among others): Curriculum, Accreditation, Student Profile, Administration of Program, Registrar Built up, Policy Changes, Marketing. We also have several productive meetings with senior leaders from Lewis & Clark, where CBE is already offered with successful outcome. Currently, the University has a consultant from C-BEN, (Competency-Based Education Network) is a national nonprofit that helps colleges design, implement, and scale high-quality competency-based education programs, who will help us assess the university's readiness for CBE through a series of focus groups with leadership, faculty and key staff members. SIUE is exploring two new models: a 90-credit hour baccalaureate degree and a competency-based education (CBE) model. The 90-credit hour degree aims to be workforce-aligned and cost-effective, while the CBE model offers individualized, self-paced learning for students with prior experience. Both models are in the early stages of development, with ongoing discussions about curriculum, accreditation, and revenue models. FSEC members offered feedback to the update, and Dr. Ibroscheva reiterated that this 90-credit hour baccalaureate degree model would only work for a number of programs and is not intended to become the standard for all programs moving forward.

- The simplest enrollment and retention strategy we can implement is a clearer, more generous transfer credit policy. SIUE's current transfer credit policy is less flexible than those of regional peers, limiting the number of transfer hours from community colleges. This hinders enrollment and retention, as transfer students are more likely to choose institutions that recognize their prior work. A more generous transfer credit policy, allowing for a higher number of transfer hours and recognizing alternative credit sources, would benefit students, improve retention, and enhance SIUE's competitiveness.

Consideration of Minutes:
The minutes for the September 11, 2025 FSEC meeting were approved as written.

Unfinished Business:

a. UPBC Strategic Plan – Jon Pettibone talked through the UBPC Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan aims to improve strategic planning participation and dissemination at SIUE. It proposes combining the UPBC and UQC committees into a single committee co-chaired by administration and faculty, with a focus on aligning with budget processes and reducing service requirements. The combined committee will have 15-20 members, including faculty, staff, and administrators. Jon answered questions from FSEC, and said that at this time, this Strategic Plan does give us a path forward. **<u>The Faculty Senate Executive Committee approved this UPBC Strategic Plan by a unanimous vote.</u>**

b. Update on approval to Changes to Policy 1Q8 (Implementation and Administrative Responsibility Policy) – still waiting on approval from the Provost and Chancellor (memo sent on February 7, 2025).

c. Update on approval to changes to Retired/Emeritus Faculty Policy – still waiting on approval from the Provost and Chancellor (memo sent on May 6, 2025).

d. 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 (memo sent on May 2, 2025).

e. Update on approval to changes to Policy 1H1 (General Education Program) – still waiting on approval from the Provost and Chancellor (memo sent on May 2, 2025).

f. Update on approval to changes to Policy 1J7 (Student Evaluation of Teaching) – checking on the status of from former Faculty Senate President Barb McCracken.

g. Program Prioritizations: Phase 2 – No update since the one Provost Cobb provided at our last FSEC meeting. Her update, from August 28: 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**.

Reports:

UPBC: Next UPBC meeting is October 3 at 9:30 am. Dr. Andy Benoit will be the guest at our November meeting.

Budget, Finance, and Academic Operations Council: Was unable to meet quorum in our last meeting, as we only had one person in the room (Kevin) and one person via Teams.

Curriculum Council: Looked at Policy 1L17 from Liz Cali.

Faculty Development Council: We are looking to possibly add a representative from ACCESS as an ex officio member on FDC.

Governance Council: A council member has been appointed to look at the minimums per Council.

President: Participated in various meetings and activities, including the Board of Trustees Meeting, where he introduced the Faculty Collaboration Award to the BOT, and together with the Faculty Senate President of SIUC, announced the 2025 Faculty Collaboration Award recipients. Had meetings with the Provost and Faculty Association, and the University Quality Council Meeting. Also attended the Chancellor's University Budget Update, Student Government Luncheon, and recommended a Faculty Senate representative for Judy Liesveld's Quadrennial Review Committee (Dr. Min Liu).

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 pm.

Submitted by Michael Tadlock-Jackson, University Governance