

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
December 11, 2025 – 2:00 pm
Magnolia Room, Morris University Center
Approved Minutes

The regular meeting of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee was called to order at 2:00 pm on Thursday, December 11, 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

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Announcements:

- a. President Cheah announced that Dr. Igor Crk will run for Faculty Senate President-Elect. The announcement will be made at the February 2026 general Faculty Senate meeting, followed by further nominations from the floor.

Consideration of Minutes:

Two changes were required from the November 13, 2025 meeting minutes: Kevin Tucker was mistakenly marked present, and the Changemakers presentation's implementation date should be Fall 2026, not Fall 2025. The amended minutes were approved as submitted.

New Business:

- a. Quorum Issue – The issue of vacant seats and the responsibility of units to fill them was discussed, emphasizing clear communication and procedures. The Faculty Senate aims to fill vacant seats, particularly from instructors, to reach a quorum of 31 members. They are considering proxy voting for absent members and reviewing bylaws to ensure compliance with the Open Meetings Act, especially regarding remote attendance and absences. The University Council seeks clarification on quorum and voting rights, questioning if they can use the number of seated senators to determine quorum. They emphasize making faculty senatorial service more appealing and addressing junior faculty overwhelm. The discussion centers on amending bylaws to allow online attendees to vote and be counted towards quorum. While there's agreement on online voting and debate, there's uncertainty about quorum counting. The Provost's approval is needed for the bylaw changes, with a goal of implementation for the next academic year.
- b. FS Membership Reduction – The Faculty Senate is considering a temporary rule change to address a specific need, potentially effective from February to December 2026. This change would be bundled with a bylaw amendment, streamlining the approval process.

The Senate is also discussing the ideal number of members, with a preference for 39 to ensure full representation on the Curriculum Council.

- c. Change Maker's Proposal – The Change Maker proposal from the December Faculty Senate meeting was discussed. Concerns arose about requiring specific teaching methods in policy, impacting CM 399 courses, and propagating changes and workload. The practicality and feasibility of the program's rollout, especially for large cohorts and transfer students, were also discussed. The process and implications of designating a course as a "Change Makers" course were discussed. Concerns about lack of due diligence, faculty autonomy, and the need for comprehensive faculty input were raised. Concerns highlighted the need for a well-defined process and clear communication. The rushed and insufficient discussion process for approving a curriculum amendment, converting IS courses to CM courses, caused confusion and dissatisfaction among faculty. The amendment, involving experiential learning and the change makers initiative, sparked debates on faculty ownership and transparency. The group is urged to find a compromise solution by the January Curriculum Council meeting.
- d. FSEC Meeting Time (Spring 2026) – FSEC members agreed to meet at 2:30 pm on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month in Spring 2026.

Unfinished Business:

- a. UPBC Strategic Plan – no update.
- 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) – still waiting on status from former Faculty Senate President Barb McCracken.
- g. Program Prioritizations: Phase 2 – no update.

Reports:

UPBC: Discussion on the potential merger of UPBC and UQC is tabled pending further information.

Curriculum Council: Transfer credit proposal, grading deadline extension, and Policy 1K1 revisions were discussed. Concerns were raised about the registrar's office authority and feedback was requested on a policy.

Faculty Development Council: New wording regarding access as an ex officio member has been approved by FDC, and will be presented to the full Senate for a vote.

Governance Council: Survey results are being handled. New surveys are being developed for next year's team to finalize and distribute.

Graduate Council: International student enrollment is down due to a lack of visa approvals, and there is a push to recruit more domestic student enrollment.

Welfare & Adjudication Council: A proposal for changes to the honorary degree policy is being worked on, with a recommendation for a recipient expected from the Honorary Degrees and Distinguished Service Awards Committee. The current chair of the committee, David Ault, is expected to handle the nomination process. Additionally, there is a need to address the appointment of members to the grievance committee and to ensure that all necessary information is provided for upcoming elections.

President: Happy Holiday!

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:01 pm.

Submitted by Michael Tadlock-Jackson, University Governance