FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
August 27, 2026 – 2:30 pm
Executive Conference 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, August 27, 2026 in the Executive Conference Room by President Sue Wiediger.

Present: **President** Sue Wiediger, **Past President** Wai Cheah, **President-Elect** Igor Crk, Jacob Del Rio, Erik Krag, Ram Madupalli, Sorin Nastasia, Jon Pettibone, Chrissy Simmons
Absent: Ken Rawson
Guest: Tim Kalinowski

Public Comment:
There was no public comment.

Announcements:

a. 2026 Faculty Collaboration Award will be presented at the September 17 Board of Trustees meeting in Alton
b. Policy changes approved and posted:
    i. 1C1 (Guidelines for Course Categories, Class Scheduling and Publications)
    ii. 1D3 (Policy on Honorary Degrees and Distinguished Service Awards) *see new business
    iii. 1F1 (Graduation Requirements)
    iv. 1H1 (General Education Program)
    v. 1I11 (Credit for Prior Learning)
    vi. 1K1 (Policy on Scheduling Final Examinations)
    vii. 1Q8 (Implementation and Administrative Responsibility Policy)
    viii. 1R2 (The John Martinson Honors Program)
c. Bylaws changes regarding number of seats approved (online error)

Consideration of Minutes:
The minutes from April 23, 2026, were reviewed. Graduate School Dean Chris Slaten presented with Provost Denise Cobb, but the minutes incorrectly show Provost Cobb presenting alone. The amended minutes, which include this correction, were approved.

Unfinished Business:

a. Bylaws changes for remote attendance – recommendation for Faculty Senate? – Bylaws changes for remote attendance were reviewed by legal and administrative, resulting in significant changes. The most contentious change is the requirement for a physical quorum to admit remote attendees, which legal counsel disagrees with. The changes will be presented to Senate for approval, with the hope of a swift approval process.
b. Update on approval to changes to Retired/Emeritus Faculty Policy – The retired and emeritus faculty policy is being acted on but is not yet published on the website.

c. Program Prioritizations: Phases 1 & 2-implementation? – Program Prioritization is still ongoing, with the Provost meeting with affected department chairs.

New Business:

a. Open Meetings Act: designee needed for each council; agenda posting timeline – Open Meetings Act training is required for new Senate members and council designees. Agendas for meetings in the MUC should be posted with a watermark and date and can be submitted to Michael by Tuesday afternoon for posting.
b. Graduate policies joint review – present to Senate or Councils? – The Graduate Council reviews all graduate program policies every three years. This year's list is longer than usual, and the Senate will review it to prioritize policies with potential undergraduate implications, such as plagiarism, credit for prior learning, and human subjects' protection. Councils will review the list before their first meeting in September and determine if policies require further evaluation by the Faculty Senate. The review process will involve identifying policies that may impact both graduate and undergraduate programs, with the final decision made by the Faculty Senate in November.
c. 1D3 (Policy on Honorary Degrees and Distinguished Service Awards) – approval of minor edits – 1D3 was approved in the summer and underwent changes before final approval; now Senate must vote to approve the policy as posted or request further changes. The Chancellor wants to award an Honorary Degree in May 2027, requiring BOT approval by December 15. The review committee must meet before that.
d. Governance Council to revise the Governance Impact Committee – The Governance Impact Committee, a subcommittee of the Governance Council, is being revised to potentially handle work when the Faculty Senate cannot meet. This committee would consist of representatives from each council, chosen by their respective councils, to act as a voice during times when the Senate is not in session. The goal is to address concerns about the Senate's ability to act during the summer and other periods when quorum is not met.
e. Faculty Senate Vacant Seats and Council Assignments – Sue discussed the Council Assignments with the Council Chairs, explaining how the reduction of Faculty Senators and vacant seats reflect this.
f. Designating authority under Robert's Rules – Senate has not been voting on Council Reports, a necessary step under Robert's Rules. To continue operating properly, the Senate must grant specific authority to the Council/Committees through the Bylaws.
g. Charge to the Program/Department Review Reform Ad Hoc Committee – Tim Kalinowski reviewed the Charge to the Program Review Reform Ad Hoc Committee. The committee is tasked with developing a transparent, evidence-based program review process for SIUE. The committee will recommend a revised process that includes consistent criteria, data sources, and opportunities for program validation. The goal is to improve program quality, increase faculty engagement, and strengthen trust in the review process.

Reports:
UPBC: Will discuss operating paper revisions at next FSEC meeting. We have made significant progress over the summer.
President: Met with Chancellor Minor a couple times over the summer. Chancellor Minor discussed goals for the upcoming year, including AI initiatives, modernizing the university, a capital campaign for SIUE's 70th birthday, and student retention and success. At last month's constituency heads meeting, we shared their current and planned work, including transitions and initiatives related to student support and university planning.

Adjournment:
The meeting was adjourned at 4:26 pm.

Submitted by Michael Tadlock-Jackson, University Governance