
SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
December 18, 2014
12:45 P.M. in SKH 369

Present: Wai Mok, Kader Frendi, Deborah Heikes, James Swain, Debra Moriarity, Azita Amiri, Charles Hickman, Eric Seemann

Guests: Provost Curtis
President Altenkirch was not present.

- Faculty Senate President Wai Mok called the meeting to order at 12:45 pm
- Administration Reports
- ❖ Provost Curtis

Travel Scholarship Program

It is the same program as before but with some changes. The first change is instead of applying the scholarship every two years, faculty members can now apply every year. The Provost office matches the travel funds from the college, department, or the Humanities Center, up to the \$500. Startup funds, funds that come from contracts and grants, are not matched. What if the department or college doesn't have money? Those are the ones who put in the most requests. So it's being used. If money isn't being used, we try to call and make sure they know about the opportunity for matching funds.

Kader Frendi asked about the amount of the scholarship. Provost Curtis said up to \$500. If the department only has \$300, then they will match it.

College of Education

We have a Dean of College of Education, Beth Quick. She's been working as the Department Chair of Education in the College of Liberal Arts and then in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction in the College of Education.

Kader Frendi asked if there can be a differentiation made between the College of Engineering and College of Education in regards to the initialism "COE." Deb Moriarity suggested College of Education use COEd. Provost Curtis agreed.

5th Year Reviews

There are two 5th year reviews going on, one in Business Administration and one in College of Engineering. The Senate Personnel Committee worked with me in terms of the survey to go out. It's with the fifth year review committees now. The committees are seeking external review letters as is required in the Faculty Handbook. I believe the surveys are going out by mid-January.

- Charles Hickman: That's our target. Dean Adams asked for our response by the 19th. It seems to be moving.

FYE Program

South Carolina was the birthplace of the First Year Learning Experience. It started at Auburn in the 1990s. It's been proven around the country to work. I made the decision this past Fall that it would continue to be mandatory, with classes of 25 students instead of 50, as it was the year before, and they worked with Student Life to develop the curriculum. They are assessing it at this point. Several focus points of students and faculty. It has gone through this process. I haven't seen the results. Retention is our main concern. After listening to the Deans, I decided it might be more of an experiment to put the FYE in the colleges. Put the core curriculum in the colleges.

- Wai Mok: What do you mean by core?
- Provost Curtis: All FYEs have to have a certain core. And then within the colleges, they become more specific. So each discipline's study skills vary. Each discipline's faculty knows what they are.

I have visions of this not working, so how do we make sure it will work? I've asked a faculty member to take on the leadership of this and take on the leadership of the general studies sections of students who haven't declared. The Deans will be responsible. Some will want to call upon certain staff. Some will want to do the whole thing themselves. I won't tell them how to do it. Faculty stipends will remain the same.

There's an issue of the clickers to check attendance. Provost Curtis said she doesn't know much about them. Deb Moriarity said she used them in her large classes. Charles Hickman said he is going to start using them in his classes. Azita Amiri said she uses them.

Provost Curtis continued to talk about this being a work in progress and the experiment lasting for several years.

- Charles Hickman: There's been some discussion about transfer students because a lot of students in the College of Business come from Junior Colleges.

SACSCOC

We went to a regional meeting in Nashville. Reports are due January 20. We've engaged with a person who is an expert on assessment and SACSCOC requirements and we are about to work with another individual who does a lot of the reading, he's read Alabama's. We will be talking with him about ours and he will help us with clarifications. We should have started a year before we actually started so we are trying to get help. Because we don't have all of the career documentation in many areas, like ABET, Business, and Nursing, our consultant, who is from Mississippi State, is coming January 5th through 8th. She says we need to have 2 assessment cycles done before March 2016, which is why we are doing this the first week of January, and those cycles are Spring 2015 semester and Fall 2015 semester.

- Kader Freni: Our main problem is data.
- Deb Moriarity: Yes, it's going to be a big rush with the workshops and the data not coming in until next Fall.

- Provost Curtis: We now have Suzanne Simpson who is our Institutional Research and Assessment Director. We are trying to build a foundation so we don't go through this again.

Board Proposals

MA in Professional Communication

BA in Writing

Two proposals in Education:

MA Teaching (various disciplines with no background in Teaching)

Bachelor's Early Childhood and Early Childhood Special Education (Samford, Auburn, and Alabama are only other 3 that offer this in Alabama)

Community College Agreements

We are working with community colleges on three agreements: Articulation Agreement; Reverse Articulation Agreement, which means that if the student comes here before they finish their Associates degree then they can ask that the courses they take here that would go towards an Associates degree be articulated back and that they be awarded an Associates degree at a community college and count them as being successful; Pathways Course (there are courses taught in the freshmen and sophomore year that once articulated after 64 hours, they lose; our goal is to be teaching our courses at a community college so the students are jointly enrolled. They will be our courses, we will be teaching them, either online or on campus, jointly with the community college courses). Drake State, Calhoun, Wallace State, Rainsville Northeast Alabama Community College, Gadsden (hopefully), and Motlow State (hopefully).

- Deb Moriarity: How will we work on which courses to teach?
- Provost Curtis: Email Brent so we can gather that information.
- Eric Seemann: Do we need to look at reverse courses that they offer there that we don't accept here because they are offered on a different level? So they teach the same course at a 200-level there but we don't accept here because we teach it at a 400-level.
- Provost Curtis: Talk to your Dean and then have them email Brent.

❖ President Altenkirch's Report (delivered via Wai Mok)

University Park

City asked for \$1.2 mill. Talked down to \$900,000. Rec'd a 5-0 vote.

Smoking Policy

Wai asked if this was a stepping-stone for a full campus ban. The President didn't really answer. We can tell him that's what we want if that's what we want.

- Deb Moriarity: There were emails pro and con.
- James Swain: Several faculty asked if this would include chewing tobacco.
- Charles Hickman: The policy mentions that.
- Kader Frendi: I think we should bring this to the full Senate.
- Deb Moriarity: And let them go back to their faculty and discuss.

Postdocs

He doesn't want them to contribute to the pension system. The postdocs would get their money back, but the university would not. So he already made that move.

ID Badges

This is coming out from the Staff Senate.

- Deborah Heikes: Why do we need these?
- Eric Seemann: It makes the place less welcoming.
- Kader Frendi: I see the benefit on the staff side, but not the faculty side.
- Deb Moriarity: I don't see it at all except for maintenance guys.
- Deborah Heikes: And IT guys.
- Kader Frendi: I see it being good for Staff. If a student is lost in the hallway they know who to ask for directions.
- Eric Seemann: If we ask staff to wear them, and not faculty, then there will be hard feelings.
- Deb Moriarity: And what do you do if someone isn't wearing a badge?
- Eric Seemann: It will be the same with someone smoking in front of the door. It also makes sense for maintenance or IT who ask for access to locked doors and sensitive materials.

Everyone was in general agreement that this idea came from the Staff Senate so it seems the staff wants the badges. The faculty is not opposing the staff having ID badges, but the faculty does not want them, and they do not want the badges forced upon them. If there are criticisms about faculty not having ID badges, then the response will be that faculty did not request them—only staff did, so only staff got them. The faculty will not oppose staff getting ID badges.

4-days Workweek

The Staff Senate passed this 21-2, so it will happen. He said there are some buildings that won't shutdown. There will be no salary reduction for the staff. It's about 10 weeks.

- Charles Hickman: 40 hours still?
- Deb Moriarity: Four 10-hour days?
- Kader Frendi: He mentioned that the core hours will be 9:00am to 4:00pm, and then the extra hours can be individually adjusted. I suggested this be done on a trial basis for one summer.
- Eric Seemann: We also want to make sure we aren't setting up a bad environment where some people come in and get all their work done quickly in the beginning, but others are pushing it.

- Discussion Items
- ❖ Ad Hoc Committee on Research Faculty/Staff
 - Ray Vaughn's email re: the Committee and the Charter

Ray Vaughn sent me an email about the Ad Hoc Committee for the RCEU program and Research Faculty/Staff being included. That Committee, as far as Vaughn knows, never met, and there were never any recommendations.

- Charles Hickman: The committee's charge was broader than that. It was to look at the role that research centers play at the university. He sent me an email over the summer and I forwarded it on, who told me they would have their work finished. My perception was that Ray wanted there to be a closer relationship between the centers and the university. He's a get it done kind of guy and this isn't getting done. His funding wasn't contingent on this committee; it was on them being included. That may have changed now.
- Deb Moriarity: That's only item 4 on this Charter. Is he looking for them to have specific designations within departments?
- Charles Hickman: The ones who are affiliated with departments are research faculty; the ones who aren't are research scientists, right?

- Wai Mok: There are 4 things on the Charter and the last one includes the RCEU. Can we remove the RCEU so there's no issue of funding?
- Charles Hickman thinks we should keep the RCEU. Deb Moriarity said it's only a concern to review the RCEU, not fund it.

- Wai Mok: Should we form another Ad Hoc Committee? Or talk to Ng first?
Charles Hickman said they should talk to Ng first and find out what happened. Everyone agreed. Wai Mok will get in touch with Ng.

❖ Policy on Policies

Everything is the same except item 9 on page 3. Now he has 2 councils: Executive Council, footnote 1 on page 2, and Advisory Council, footnote 2 on page 3.

There was discussion of the Faculty Senate being separate from the Staff Senate and the SGA due to shared governance, which is laid out in the Handbook. Faculty Senate is ahead of SGA and Staff Senate in that it has shared governance and it isn't just a group organized for a specific purpose. The point isn't to exclude Staff Senate and SGA, but to formally recognize that the Faculty Senate has shared governance, and they can do so in this policy by putting us in the Executive Council.

- Deb Moriarity: Part of the problem is logistics. The Executive Council meets and discusses other things not related to Faculty Senate, so the Faculty Senate representative would have to be in and out of the meeting. At this point, I'm in favor of taking this and moving forward because it incorporates most of what we've asked for, and they're putting out policies left and right that aren't going through this.
- Deborah Heikes: I think when it comes to academic policies we could ask for a specific role.

- Charles Hickman: Have the Faculty Senate President be a voting member on the Executive Council. Do they vote?
 - Wai Mok: I think they vote.
 - Charles Hickman: Get rid of the rest of it and only put the Faculty Senate President in the Executive Council.
 - Deborah Heikes: He explicitly rejected that.
 - Charles Hickman: When it concerns university governance affecting the faculty. If this is going to generate controversy, which he doesn't want, then that is a compromise. That seems to me like the biggest step towards shared governance that we could have.
 - Kader Frendi: That was the intent of the modifications we made.
 - Charles Hickman: I found the changes we made to be very precatory. What if we simply ask him to include the Faculty Senate President in the Executive Council, and do away with this other stuff?
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- Wai Mok: When did we give this back to him?
 - Deborah Heikes: By September 30.
 - Wai Mok: It's been on his desk for 3 months. But this is what we asked for.
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- Deborah Heikes: I didn't think we would get everything, but the gist of the point we were making is that we aren't equal to Staff Senate and SGA, and that wasn't incorporated. We need a track changes document on this.
 - Charles Hickman: I would ask you to ask him if that is in the realm of possibility—to have the Faculty Senate President sit on the Executive Council.
 - Eric Seemann: If it did, I think that would solve a lot of our problem.
 - Charles Hickman: If we frame this the right way—that the issue is about shared governance and faculty are concerned about this—then we can ask for it.
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- Eric Seemann: The only real problem I can see with this from his point of view is that the Faculty Senate President changes yearly and if they're working on something that takes longer than that, then there's a problem with continuity.
 - Kader Frendi: There will also be issues that the Faculty Senate President won't be invited.
 - Charles Hickman: I don't see why. I don't know what other universities do, though.
 - Wai Mok: I heard that you'll find an example of everything everywhere else.
 - Charles Hickman: One of the biggest objections might come from the Deans.
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- Kader Frendi: The drawback from item 9 is that he is putting us with the SGA and that is a disillusion of our power.
 - Eric Seemann: It's also limiting us from serving our departments and doing our job.
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- Deborah Heikes: It's important this be written down.
 - Wai Mok: I have expressed this concern to him.

- Deborah Heikes: It needs to be communicated that we aren't happy with this. I have a major objection with Item 9. If we are talking about academic policies, most of them don't concern Staff Senate and they shouldn't be going to SGA as a whole.
- Kader Frendi: I think the first version is better than this one.
- Deborah Heikes: I agree.

❖ Agenda for Faculty Senate Meeting #554, January 8, 2015
Approved

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm