



**Faculty Senate
Minutes of the Executive Committee**

Presiding: Jeffrey G. Marchetta

Date: October 20, 2020

Secretary: R. Jeffrey Thieme (Secretary)

Members Present: Jeffrey G. Marchetta (President), Jill A. Dapremont (President-Elect), Thomas E. Banning (Past-President), R. Jeffrey Thieme (Secretary), Mark Sunderman (Parliamentarian), W. Pat Travis (At-Large), and Leigh Falls Holman (At-Large)

Members Absent: None

Guests: Gloria Carr (Ombudsperson) and David Kemme (Faculty Trustee)

The meeting was held on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 via the Zoom video conferencing platform due to restrictions imposed in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

10.20.20.01 Call to Order

President Jeff Marchetta called the virtual meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) to order with a quorum at 2:42 pm.

10.20.20.02 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as written.

10.20.20.03 Approval of Minutes

(Executive Committee- September 15, 2020)

The minutes of the September 15, 2020 Faculty Senate (FS) Executive Committee meeting were approved as written.

10.20.20.04 President's Report

Faculty Handbook and the role of the Board of Trustees

President Marchetta reported that Senator Eugene Buder, chair of the Faculty Policies Committee, submitted their draft of code of conduct to the University's Legal Office. The Legal Office conflated two issues: 1) the code of conduct did not break the law or violate any policies and 2) it is essentially an aspirational document.

Also, the Board of Trustees has the ultimate authority over governance of the university. Our practice has been for the Faculty Senate to approve the handbook with the approval of the

Provost's Office. The Board has yet to delegate handbook responsibility to the Senate or Provost. He is going to meet with Melanie Murry, University Counsel, and Provost Thomas Nenon to discuss the issue. The goal is to ask the Board to delegate handbook authority.

President Marchetta yielded to Faculty Trustee David Kemme who noted that the board for the University of Tennessee system does approve all changes to their faculty handbook. He believes that our Board is likely to approve delegation of the handbook responsibility.

Spring 2020 Return to Campus plan

President Marchetta reported that chairs and deans are being told that the Preparedness Committee started meeting a couple weeks ago at his request. Provost Nenon reconvened the committee and the task force has been meeting. They relaunched a student survey (see Appendix for a summary of results). His observation is that students are leaning towards remote instruction, but it's mixed. Next there will be a survey of faculty. Its preamble will discuss student survey results and financial implications. The plan being put forth from the Provost to deans and chairs is a mix of on-ground, online, and remote instruction. They will be shooting for 50-60% on-ground. The Provost is saying that it'll be a local decision. All of this is completely contingent on local COVID-19 statistics.

10.20.20.05 Old Business

Charge on return to campus in spring survey –Lau

President Marchetta reported that Senator Holly Lau requested a survey of faculty on preferences for teaching in the spring. This will be executed through the task force.

10.20.20.06 New Business

President Marchetta pointed the EC to the motions, committee reports, and charges in the packet sent to the EC via email. He described them briefly and asked for comments/questions.

(M2020.21.13) Motion to Approve Lean Management Plan – Budget and Finance Standing Committee

There were no comments/questions.

(M2020.21.14) Motion on Discussion Board Transparency – Senator Weirdl

President Marchetta expressed his desire for transparency. However, he doesn't agree with allowing anyone to post to the Senate discussion board. The Senate is a representative body and each Senator is responsible for discussing issues with faculty in their unit and representing those points of view in the Senate. The EC discussed various issues related to management of a potential discussion board that could be available to all faculty and graduate students.

(M2020.21.15) Motion to Recommend Approval of Student Code of Conduct – Academic Policies Standing Committee

There were no comments/questions.

(M2020.21.16) Motion to Recommend Faculty Senate Appointment of Title IX Hearing Officers to OIE– Administrative Policies Standing Committee

There were no comments/questions.

(M2020.21.17) Motion to Amend Faculty Handbook Sections 3.5.5 and 4.3.2 – Faculty Policies Standing Committee

There were no comments/questions.

New Charge to Academic Support Standing Committee – Review and provide recommendation on Ecourseware grade release default setting

The EC agreed to add this charge to the Academic Support Standing Committee.

New Charge to Academic Policies Standing Committee – Support from faculty senate of graduate student mental health

The EC agreed to send a charge to the Academic Policies Committee on this issue. Senator Leigh Holman agreed to draft the charge.

10.20.20.07 Discussion Items

Posting Executive Committee Meeting Minutes on website

President Marchetta reported that the Senate website is mostly done, but still being updated. He asked if there were any objections to posting the EC minutes. There were no objections. President Marchetta will work with Administrative Assistant Kim Marks to get them posted on the Senate web site.

Senator at Large Executive Committee Vacancy

President Marchetta reported that there is no guidance in the Constitution regarding a vacancy on the EC. The EC decided to leave the position vacant.

Screen sharing during Senate Meetings

President Marchetta reported that when we started conducting meetings remotely in the spring (under the leadership of Past-President Tom Banning), we decided that screen sharing would not be allowed because the Senate needs to follow the rules of order (Robert's Rules of Order). In addition, any materials shared during the meeting need to be submitted to the Senate Office ahead of the meeting so that they can be accurately reflected in the minutes. The EC agreed that speakers with presentations will send their presentation to the Senate Office and the Senate President will share the presentation during the meeting. Parliamentarian Mark Sunderman will draft a letter to Senator Máté Wierdl who initiated the discussion of screen sharing during FS meetings.

Chat function in Zoom during meetings

President Marchetta reported that the chat function in Zoom has not been enabled in Senate meetings because there was no equivalent chat function in live Senate meetings. The EC agreed to continue the practice of disabling the chat function in Zoom during Senate meetings. Parliamentarian Sunderman to draft a letter to Senator Wierdl to explain the rationale.

ITS wants to demo Updated Smart Classrooms for November meeting

President Marchetta reported that Information Technology Services (ITS) wants to demonstrate the updated smart classrooms in the November FS meeting. The EC agreed to add the demonstration to the agenda.

(Nov.) Motion to Affirm the Importance of GA positions to MA programs- Michael Perez

President Marchetta reported that there is discussion in administration regarding the allocation of assistantship funding (around \$10M). The University President and Provost would like to shift allocations away from GA positions for Carnegie 1 status reasons. The EC agreed to take up the motion in the November EC meeting.

Trustee Report - Kemme

President Marchetta yielded to Faculty Trustee Kemme who reported that the state audits boards and the sunset audit of our Board is complete. The sunset audit report doesn't raise any significant issues with our Board's performance. Administration will prepare a response that will be submitted to a committee in the state legislature sometime around November. Once approved, the document becomes public.

President Marchetta added that he also read the sunset report and agrees that there weren't any significant issues.

Ombudsperson Report – Carr

President Marchetta yielded to Ombudsperson Gloria Carr who stated that she didn't have anything to add.

Review Senate Meeting Agenda

President Marchetta reviewed the agenda for the October FS meeting. Parliamentarian Sunderman to address the screen sharing policy during the meeting. The EC agreed to a 20-minute time limit for Senator Wierdl's presentation.

Parliamentarian Sunderman reported that in the last Teaching & Learning Advisory Committee (TLAC) meeting they discussed the importance of scantrons on campus and whether we should get rid of them. They realized that while the usage is limited, scantrons are still being used. Also, they are going to do two reviews. They are asking college representatives to fill out surveys on the importance of software, but they aren't allowed to survey their faculty. They are also conducting a survey of Technology Access Fee (TAF) and smart classroom utilizations. It's not clear what the surveys are designed to accomplish. He's not comfortable completing the survey addressing classrooms in other colleges. He's also not sure why TLAC is conducting the surveys.

10.20.20.08 Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:48 pm.

Appendix

Student Survey Results

1

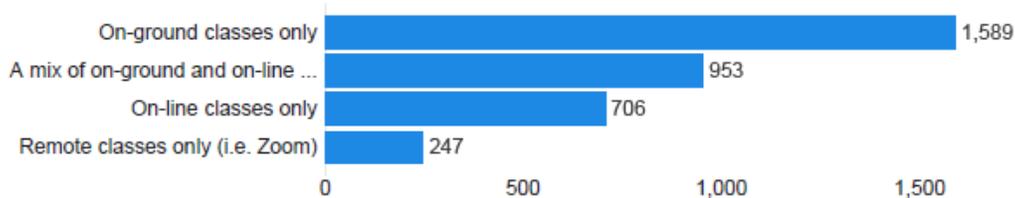
Q2 - Looking ahead to the Spring 2021 semester, I am seeking



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Field	On-ground classes only	A mix of on-ground and on-line classes	On-line classes only	Remote classes only (i.e. Zoom)
Looking ahead to the Spring 2021 semester, I am seeking	541	1,207	1,112	788
Looking ahead to the Spring 2021 semester, I am seeking	15%	33%	30%	22%

Q3 - In Spring of 2020, I was originally enrolled in



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Field	On-ground classes only	A mix of on-ground and on-line classes	On-line classes only	Remote classes only (i.e. Zoom)
In Spring of 2020, I was originally enrolled in	1,589	953	706	247
In Spring of 2020, I was originally enrolled in	45.46%	27.27%	20.20%	7.07%