



**Faculty Senate
Minutes of the Executive Committee**

Presiding: Jeffrey G. Marchetta

Date: April 28, 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

The meeting was held on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 via the Zoom video conferencing platform due to restrictions imposed in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

02.13.20.01 Call to Order

President Jeff Marchetta called the virtual meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) to order with a quorum at 4:10pm.

02.13.20.02 Approval of Agenda

This was the first meeting of the 2020-2021 session of the Executive Committee. It was organizational and there was no formal agenda.

02.13.20.03 Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 14, 2020 EC meeting were approved as written prior to the meeting via email by the EC members from the prior term (2019-2020).

02.13.20.04 Discussion and Organization

President Marchetta reminded the EC that they operate over the summer to handle any urgent business of the Faculty Senate (FS). Also, the EC doesn't plan to meet often, only as needed. The EC does plan to meet with the deans of each college to discuss faculty issues, probably via Zoom over the summer.

President Marchetta expressed his intent to emphasize the issue of shared governance during his term. He wants the FS to provide a lot of input into decisions and to ensure that decisions are communicated transparently. Beginning in June, the EC will begin the election of the next Faculty Trustee.

Mark Sunderman commented on University President M. David Rudd's email (Subject: COVID-19 Update: Fall Preparations, 04-28-2020), specifically the appointment of a steering committee and President Marchetta's representation on it. He's concerned that people are making decisions about issues without having a lot of information. As an example, he mentioned Provost Thomas Nenon's decisions on online course instruction. He's troubled by the composition of the steering committee. Other than President Marchetta, faculty aren't represented. He hopes that President Marchetta speaks up and emphasizes that faculty need to be heard. He emphasized the importance of his participation on the steering committee.

President Marchetta summarized his positive involvement on the President's Council that recently met. He believes he's being given opportunities to speak and believes that they listen to him. President Marchetta provided an example: the eCourseware decision (i.e. evaluation of course management platforms and contracts). Robert Jackson (Chief Information Officer, CIO) asked for opinions during the most recent President's Council meeting. President Marchetta noted that we need at least a year for a transition if we adopt a different course management platform. He also suggested to sign a short-term contract to give us another year to decide. These requests were adopted by CIO Jackson.

Past-President Tom Banning asked Senator Sunderman if he could identify subject matter experts to help President Marchetta. Senator Sunderman replied that he's comfortable helping with online learning issues.

President Marchetta mentioned the importance of revising the faculty handbook and the faculty code of conduct. He stacked the Faculty Policies Committee with good talent to address both issues. The EC also needs new charges for continually reviewing faculty compensation issues. We need to be proactive, not reactive.

President Marchetta wants the EC to review, revise, and create charges for all standing committees this summer. Past-President Banning suggested that the EC begin by reviewing the current committee reports.

President Marchetta wants an EC meeting in May, after grades are done. He also wants an informal meeting in person to recognize the service of Past-President Banning when that's possible.

President-Elect Jill Dapremont asked to meet one-on-one with President Marchetta to set expectations for her position as President-Elect. Past-President Banning suggested that he, Administrative Assistant Kim Marks, President Marchetta and President-Elect Dapremont meet to discuss responsibilities and who will be serving on various university committees. President Marchetta asked Past-President Banning about which committees needed to be voted on and which can be assigned. Past-President Banning suggested that any requests for representation be sent to the Committee on Committees to be filled. If that committee doesn't fill positions, the EC will. Graduate Assistant Jada Ingram pointed out that Dr. George Relyea is no longer on

the Senate and won't be able to serve on the Undergraduate Appeals Committee, so a replacement will be needed.

Past-President Banning thanked President Marchetta, Administrative Assistant Marks, and Graduate Assistant Ingram on the smooth elections in today's Faculty Senate meeting.

Secretary Jeff Thieme brought up various technology issues that potentially face faculty in the fall semester due to the COVID-19 pandemic. President Marchetta agreed that our sentiments on these issues need to be forwarded to administration.

President Marchetta announced that he will meet with Administrative Assistant Marks and Graduate Assistant Ingram to discuss the creation of an online discussion board for the FS. He wants a motion in the fall that clarifies that the FS not use email for discussion. Also, the FS Office needs to post a link on the FS website to motions that the FS has passed.

Senator Sunderman asked for the next meeting to be the week after grades are due because of his travel plans later in May. President Marchetta tentatively scheduled the next EC meeting to be held at 11:00am on the 12th of May.

04.23.19.05 Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.