



**Faculty Senate
Minutes of the Executive Committee**

Presiding: Jeffrey G. Marchetta

Date: November 10, 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, November 10, 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 2:41 pm.

10.20.20.02 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as written.

10.20.20.03 Approval of Minutes

(Executive Committee- October 20, 2020)

The minutes of the October 20, 2020 Faculty Senate (FS) Executive Committee meeting were approved as written.

10.20.20.04 President's Report

President's Council Update

President Marchetta reported that the President's Council mostly discussed the return to campus and the current state of the budget, but nothing really new.

President Marchetta also mentioned that the EC met with the Provost and President last week.

10.20.20.05 Old Business

Zoom Chat On/Off?

President Marchetta asked about chat in Zoom meetings. The EC agreed to leave the chat function turned off during FS meetings. FS Administrative Assistant Kim Marks verified that the chat function is turned off. Chat will only be available between hosts during FS meetings.

10.20.20.06 New Business

President Marchetta pointed the EC to the motions, committee reports, and charges in the supplemental materials sent to the EC via email.

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

President Marchetta reported that the Faculty Policies Committee wants to revisit and amend their motion that passed in the last FS meeting to update the Faculty Handbook on promotion and raise policies.

There were no objections to adding this motion to the agenda.

(M2020.21.18) Motion to Recommend Creation of Graduate Student Faculty Ombudsperson – Academic Policies Standing Committee

President Marchetta reported that the Academic Policies Committee is considering a motion to endorse the creation of a Graduate Student Faculty Ombudsperson position as a result of recommendations from the Graduate Student Mental Health Task Force. The motion would only endorse the concept of the new position and all details would be worked out by the Graduate School and the Graduate Student Organization. Ombudsperson Gloria Carr asked for more background information on this motion with respect to its origins. President Marchetta responded that there were some graduate students who felt mistreated by faculty mentors and they didn't have any recourse. This led to the creation of the Graduate Student Mental Health Task Force. Ombudsperson Carr asked how this would be different from any other student complaint about faculty. President Marchetta responded that currently students can only approach department chairs about faculty complaints and this new position would offer an alternate avenue for support. Ombudsperson Carr asked about resources from Academic Affairs for this position. President Marchetta responded that they don't have any resources for this situation. Ombudsperson Carr reported that she has had consultations with students on these issues. She's not certain that this new position would mitigate these issues or help with the problems they are having. President-elect Jill Dapremont asked about the authority of this new ombudsperson to enforce a resolution. Ombudsperson Carr responded that the ombudsperson does not have that authority. They make recommendations and provide options for resolving issues. She stated that she does not disagree with the creation of the new position. But she expressed concern that it's not clear what outcomes they anticipate from this new role.

There were no objections to adding this motion to the agenda.

(M2020.21.19) Motion to Recommend Creation of New Policy on Faculty Administrator Salary Conversions – Administrative Policies Standing Committee

President Marchetta reported that he is waiting for feedback from University President M. David Rudd to pass on to the Committee. The committee might want extra time to resolve any issues, so it's not clear that this motion will be on the agenda for the next FS meeting. President-elect Dapremont brought up the issue of clinical faculty being promoted to administrative positions, but not being included in the motion. President Marchetta responded that the motion will need to be reworded to include clinical faculty. He will advise the Committee of this issue.

The EC agreed to send this motion back to the committee for revisions.

Report from Budget and Finance Committee

There were no objections to adding this motion to the agenda.

GA Working Group Recommendations Plan

There were no objections to adding this motion to the agenda.

The EC agreed that it would charge itself with this issue and Senators Melissa McLean and Michail Gkolias would be working to convey information from the working group to the Senators in the next FS meeting.

Status on Ecourseware Grade Settings Default

Parliamentarian Mark Sunderman asked about the potential conflict between TLAC and the FS. President Marchetta clarified that administration (Provost Tom Nenon) would follow the recommendation from the FS.

Form Working Group for Esra Odenerol Grant on Dual Family Career Services

President Marchetta updated the EC on this issue. He summarized the issues revolving around dual family career services.

The EC agreed that President Marchetta will ask Senator Eugene Buder, chair of the Faculty Policies Committee, if the committee wants to take up this charge. If not, the EC agreed to create an ad hoc committee.

10.20.20.07 Discussion Items

Senator request for Faculty Senate Closed Door Sessions

President Marchetta yielded to Parliamentarian Sunderman who discussed the issue. If we fall under the sunshine laws, we cannot ask guests to leave.

The EC agreed that we fall under the sunshine law. President Marchetta will suggest that a proxy could be assigned to discuss an issue in open FS meetings for sensitive issues.

The EC agreed that the FS will not ask guests to leave, consistent with the sunshine laws.

The EC discussed the possibility of using an executive session to ask guests to leave the meeting. Faculty Trustee David Kemme suggested that the EC discuss the issue with Melanie Murry, University Counsel.

The EC agreed that President Marchetta will respond to the Senator's email that raised this issue with some alternatives.

Ombudsperson Report-Carr

President Marchetta yielded to Ombudsperson Gloria Carr who reported that our faculty are stressed related to COVID-19. She's diligently trying to work through those issues. There have been two mental health cases that she referred to the Employee Assistance Program (EAP).

President Marchetta mentioned that the plan for the spring semester is to incorporate several mini-breaks in place of a traditional spring break to help relieve some pressure on both faculty and students.

Trustee Report-Kemme

President Marchetta yielded to Faculty Trustee David Kemme who reported that there's nothing new to report from board activities. Committee meetings will be held in two weeks and the next board meeting will follow those meetings in December. He doesn't have agenda items to report yet. In the last meeting he mentioned the state sunshine audit. The final response from administration will come in the next week or two. Also, University President Rudd, Board of Trustees Chairman David North, and University Counsel Murry will testify and give our formal response in the state legislature soon. The report will be made public after that testimony.

President Marchetta reported that the revisions of the faculty handbook are moving along in the Faculty Policies Committee. He suggested to Provost Nenon that he review the faculty handbook to identify parts that he would like the FS to remove or revise. The FS would not be required to act on any suggestions, but President Marchetta believes that these suggestions would be helpful to the Committee.

The EC had no objections.

President Marchetta asked Trustee Kemme if he had any objections and he stated that he didn't have objections and thought it was a good idea.

President Marchetta also reported that Provost Nenon suggests that if there is no agreement between the FS and the Provost on changes to the faculty handbook that the FS could appeal to the University President to overrule the Provost's objections.

Secretary Jeff Thieme brought up the issue of supplemental materials from FS meetings being posted on the FS web site. The EC agreed to post supplemental materials for FS meetings, but not supplemental materials for EC meetings.

Review Draft Agenda for November Faculty Senate Meeting
President Marchetta reviewed agenda items with the EC.

10.20.20.08 Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:32 pm.