



Faculty Senate
Minutes of the Executive Committee

Presiding: Jill A. Dapremont

Date: June 16, 2021

Secretary: R. Jeffrey Thieme

Members Present: Jill A. Dapremont (President), W. Pat Travis (President-Elect), Jeffrey G. Marchetta (Past-President), R. Jeffrey Thieme (Secretary), Mark Sunderman (Parliamentarian), Steven L. Nelson (At-Large), and DeAnna Owens-Mosby (At-Large)

Members Absent: None

Guests: David Kemme (Faculty Trustee)

The meeting was held on Tuesday, June 16, 2021 via the Zoom video conferencing platform due to restrictions imposed in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

06.16.21.01 Call to Order

President Jill Dapremont called the virtual meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) to order with a quorum at 11:02 am.

06.16.21.02 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as written.

06.16.21.03 Approval of Minutes

(Executive Committee – May 25, 2021)

The minutes of the May 25, 2021 Faculty Senate (FS) Executive Committee meeting were approved as written.

06.16.21.04 President's Report

President's Council Update

President Dapremont reported that the president's council meeting schedule has been changed to once per week. In the last meeting there was an update about the athletic program that was communicated in an email to faculty staff and students.

Get Vaccinated Campaign

President Dapremont reported that the "Get Vaccinated" program is ongoing. Vaccinations are recommended but not mandated by the university.

Fall Admissions Update

President Dapremont reported that admissions for fall are looking good and dorms are filling up.

IT Canvas update – in final stretch of LMS contract signing

President Dapremont reported that the learning management system contract with Canvas is still being finalized. They are hoping to finish by the end of June. Courses will be released to faculty after the contract is finalized.

Parliamentarian Mark Sunderman asked about complications that are delaying progress on the contract. President Dapremont replied that she doesn't know what is causing the delays and will follow up with Dr. Robert Jackson (ITS (Information Technology Services) Chief Information Officer). Parliamentarian Sunderman commented that he's concerned that training for faculty is being pushed back into July at the earliest. He hopes that administration realizes the problems these delays are causing faculty. President Dapremont will bring these issues up to Dr. Jackson at the next president's council meeting, but she's not sure there's much more that can be done.

06.16.21.05 Old Business

EC Dean's Meetings will start June 22, 2021.

President Dapremont reported that the dean's meetings will begin on June 22. Some deans were confused about the LMCIS (Lean Management and Continuous Improvement Strategies) process and are concerned that the FS is trying to run their colleges.

Review committee charges for completeness

President Dapremont asked the EC if there are any suggested changes or additions to the charge log. She pointed to the Administrative Policies Committee charge on free speech. University legal counsel is still working on the policy and once they are finished, she will send it to EC members for review. All FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) requests go through the legal counsel's office.

Past-president Jeff Marchetta pointed out that item #4 for the Administrative Faculty Policies Committee (administrator step-down salary policies) should be moved to the Faculty Policies Committee. The EC agreed.

Secretary Jeff Thieme asked about sending a charge to a committee to study FS President compensation (i.e. reduced teaching loads). The EC decided to discuss the issue again in the next EC meeting. President Dapremont suggested creating an ad hoc committee to review all bylaws since this change would require a change in the bylaws.

Senator Steven Nelson asked about adjusting manpower on committees with respect to load from the charges. President Dapremont responded that there are more Senators on committees with higher workloads.

The EC agreed to the changes to the charge log.

Finalize dates for New Faculty Senator Orientation (1st week) Tuesday and Thursday?

President Dapremont and Parliamentarian Sunderman discussed potential dates for the new Faculty Senator orientation sessions. They agreed on 2:20-4:30 pm on August 24th and 26th. The EC discussed the agenda for the orientation meetings. Meetings will focus on the main/common parliamentary rules that are followed in our meetings and how the FS functions. Parliamentarian Sunderman added that he'll also discuss how virtual meetings are conducted over Zoom.

The EC agreed to continue conducting meetings through Zoom by a vote of 6 for Zoom and 1 for in-person. President Dapremont added that she'll try to limit the meeting length to four hours. The EC agreed. Senator Nelson requested that the time for polls being open be announced during meetings. President Dapremont agreed to announce time limits for voting, probably 25 seconds. The EC agreed.

Textbook Affordability survey update

President Dapremont reported that she attended a meeting on June 9 about a survey that will be sent out to students asking about textbook affordability.

06.16.21.06 New Business

Deans TAF meeting and ITPPC no longer exist and were deleted from the Faculty Senate website under external standing committees

President Dapremont reported that the deans TAF meeting and ITPPC meetings no longer exist. ITS has one committee and the FS has representation on it.

06.16.21.07 Discussion Issues

What recommendations should be applied to employees who continually click on phishing emails

President Dapremont reported that Dr. Jackson (ITS CIO) wanted feedback on recommendations for employees who repeatedly click on phishing emails. The EC agreed to charge the Academic Support Committee with investigating the issue. President Dapremont will let Dr. Jackson know that the EC will work through a committee on this issue.

Senator DeAnna Owens-Mosby asked about the process for bringing issues to the FS for action. Secretary Thieme replied that issues can be brought to the EC. Past-president Marchetta added that issues can also go through a standing committee and the standing committee can charge itself.

06.16.21.08 Announcements

David Kemme – Trustee Report

President Dapremont yielded to Dr. David Kemme, Faculty Trustee. With regard to earlier discussions about IT security, he suggested that the FS invite Dr. Jackson (ITS CIO) to the FS to discuss IT security issues. He also agreed that there should be consequences for faculty who do not complete IT training. With respect to the Board meeting, he noted that the student code of conduct was approved as well as tenure and promotion recommendations. The Board approved the budget as proposed (around \$570M). The presidential search is ongoing. The Board has asked an outside firm to do a salary survey for university presidents. He noted for the peer group (including a few R1 universities) the 25th percentile (total compensation) is \$537,000 and the 75th percentile is \$838,000. UTK (University of Tennessee – Knoxville) pays \$701,000. The Board wants to be competitive. He added that the Board meeting was conducted both live and via Zoom and it went well.

Senator Owens-Mosby asked if the university will consider raising everyone's salary to be consistent with R1 peer groups. Faculty Trustee Kemme responded that it was an important question. He talked with Provost Tom Nenon after the last Board meeting and asked if we could do a faculty salary survey study. Provost Nenon thought it would be a good idea and that it would include some lower level R1 institutions. Faculty Trustee Kemme added that he did a faculty salary survey in 2017 when he was a Faculty Senator and he can send it to the EC again. He'll let the EC know what Provost Nenon says about a faculty salary survey after their next meeting.

President Dapremont asked Faculty Trustee Kemme to report on Dr. Jasbir Dhaliwal's (Executive Vice President for Research and Innovation) presentation to the Board. Faculty Trustee Kemme reported that Dr. Dhaliwal presents on research activities and goals to the Board. This time there were three faculty presenting on a program to increase the number of patents applied for and/or received. Previously Dr. Dhaliwal had faculty who received large grants present to the Board. Faculty Trustee Kemme thinks these presentations are helpful because the Board generally doesn't know about the research that faculty are doing. He gets positive feedback from other Board members. Also, we've asked the state for and received an extra \$5M in funding for research activities.

Gloria Carr – Ombudsperson Report

There was no Ombudsperson Report.

President Dapremont announced that the next EC meeting is 10:30 on July 13th.

06.16.21.09 Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:08 pm.