



**Faculty Senate  
Minutes of the Executive Committee**

**Presiding:** Jill A. Dapremont

**Date:** August 24, 2021

**Secretary:** R. Jeffrey Thieme

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

**Members Absent:** Jeffrey G. Marchetta (Past-President) and DeAnna Owens-Mosby (At-Large)

**Guests:** Dr. M. David Rudd (University President), Dr. Tom Nenon (Provost), David Kemme (Faculty Trustee), and Gloria Carr (Ombudsperson)

The meeting was held on Tuesday, August 24, 2021 via the Zoom video conferencing platform due to restrictions imposed in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

**08.24.21.01 Call to Order**

President Jill Dapremont called the virtual meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) to order with a quorum at 2:30 pm.

**08.24.21.02 Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as written with the addition of guest speaker University President Dr. M. David Rudd as soon as he joins the meeting to discuss enrollment and FDA approval of the COVID-19 vaccine.

**08.24.21.03 Approval of Minutes  
(Executive Committee – July 13, 2021)**

The minutes of the July 13, 2021 Faculty Senate (FS) Executive Committee meeting were approved as written.

University President M. David Rudd provided a brief update on enrollment. Enrollment looks to be down about 1% this fall, which translates into about \$2.2M in total revenue. The university set aside a buffer of \$2M for just this reason. The enrollment contraction happened in our sophomore class as we lost 20% of last year's freshman class. This was the largest loss from a freshman class in our history. A survey found various reasons for the retention problems in the

freshman class including financial, personal, deaths in family, and job loss. This year's incoming freshman class is up 2.5% over last year. Overall, the university is in a reasonably good spot financially. We won't have budget reductions because we planned for the possibility of an enrollment contraction. If we have further contraction in the spring, we should be okay. Housing is at an all-time high of almost 100%. There will be a ripple effect from the sophomore class for the next 3-4 years unless we grow in freshmen or UofM Global enrollment.

Senator Steven Nelson asked about graduate enrollment. University President Rudd reported that graduate enrollment is up 2.4%.

Senator Nelson asked if UofM Global is meeting expectations. University President Rudd answered that the largest consistent growth over the last six years is from UofM Global. 17% of overall enrollment is from UofM Global. Provost Tom Nenon added that these are tuition paying students. They have a positive impact on our revenue.

Senator Nelson asked if the university has considered different tuition rates for different majors. University President Rudd answered that there are state and federal rules that make that difficult. We are constrained.

Parliamentarian Mark Sunderman asked if we can overcome some of the sophomore enrollment issue by focusing more on transfer students. University President Rudd answered yes, but it can be difficult. Southwest Community College is our primary feeder, and their enrollment declines are significant, too. Provost Nenon agreed and added that the university is reaching out to potential transfer students. But it's going to be a challenge.

Parliamentarian Sunderman asked about reaching out to other junior colleges around the country. University President Rudd responded that the university has an extensive network working with junior colleges. Provost Nenon added that Tammy Hedges (Executive Vice President for University Relations) works well with UofM Global. He added that our outreach has become national and our brand image is increasing nationally.

President Dapremont brought up COVID-19 and vaccinations. University President Rudd commented that he's pursuing the effort in coordination with the state and the health department. This would be the fifth required vaccine for the university. He also needs to go through governor's office. He will be sending a formal letter asking for support from the governor this Thursday. He believes that the vaccine is the safe, appropriate, and a medically advised action to take. He doesn't have independent authority to mandate the vaccine without state approval.

Secretary Jeff Thieme asked about the potential timing of a vaccine mandate. University President Rudd answered that it could be a matter of days but is likely to be longer.

Secretary Thieme asked about mandatory, regular testing. University President Rudd answered that given the error rates and limitations on capacity, it doesn't make sense. Also, the university can't afford to test everyone on a regular basis. Provost Nenon added that the university is following recommendations from the public health experts that are advising them. University President Rudd added that Baptist Memorial Health Care comes to campus regularly for vaccinations and we are paying \$20 for each of those shots. Provost Nenon added that the university is also paying for "free" testing on campus.

Senator Nelson asked if our enrollment decline was a result of our transition to online instruction. University President Rudd answered that part of the reason the freshman retention dropped was because of the transition to online instruction. Provost Nenon added that the transition to remote cost us significantly in enrollment as well as in learning.

Senator Nelson asked about student compliance with campus COVID-19 requirements. University President Rudd answered that there is good student compliance. Provost Nenon added that the university hasn't had a referral to student conduct yet. He added that they were worried about faculty and students who would need to request accommodations, but we had fewer requests than anticipated. They only had to move a few sections from on ground to online instruction and worked carefully with students to meet their needs. He added that students are passionate about meeting on ground. Overall compliance of students indoors has been remarkably smooth. This has not been the case in other parts of the state.

Parliamentarian Sunderman asked about making sure our traditional campus doesn't fail in the long run. Students seem to be passionate about online learning, too. Provost Nenon responded that the university is working to renovate buildings. He believes that the state now recognizes that we don't need new buildings as much as we need to update existing buildings.

Parliamentarian Sunderman asked about food service on campus and extended hours for facilities. Provost Nenon pointed out that University President Rudd moved the food service contract from Aramark to Chartwells. The university is also working with our neighborhood.

President Dapremont asked about university professorships. Provost Nenon reported that the university has a \$5M initiative to invest R1 sustainability funds. They are pursuing an option for recurring funding. They are spending about \$3M on post docs and research scientists. Dr. Jasbir Dhaliwal, Executive Vice President for Research and Innovation, is working with departments and colleges to distribute funding. The university also used some of the funding to invest in software that supports research. Finally, part of the allocation will fund twenty university professorships. Provost Nenon expressed appreciation for all the extra effort that faculty are extending this semester.

Senator Nelson asked if the university achieved R1 status. Faculty Trustee David Kemme responded that the university expects to hear a decision on R1 status in November. He thinks our chances are 65/35 for achieving R1 status.

#### **08.24.21.04 President's Report**

##### ***New Faculty Senators Orientation***

President Dapremont reported there was good attendance at new Senator orientations.

##### ***IT Canvas Update***

President Dapremont reported that Canvas training will start the week of August 30th, with both virtual and in-person training offerings. A training stipend of \$200 has been approved for faculty who complete four hours of Canvas training. There is also a self-paced, asynchronous training course that faculty can complete. Her next meeting on Canvas will be on August 26. He expects that Dr. Robert Jackson, ITS Chief Information Officer (CIO), will send out an email to faculty with details. Parliamentarian Sunderman added that IT has scheduled some training sessions starting August 31. He asked if faculty would have access to a class to practice with as we go through training. President Dapremont responded that faculty will need to request a sandbox and course materials can be transferred into the sandbox. Parliamentarian Sunderman expressed that faculty need better communication on the transition to Canvas. He asked how we should download and store content. He is not sure what he should be doing. President Dapremont responded that she will send CIO Jackson an email to see if he can join the meeting to answer questions. She added that they are doing train the trainer courses right now.

Senator Nelson asked if the \$200 stipend is only for in person sessions. President Dapremont responded that she assumes it is only for in person training.

President-elect Pat Travis volunteered to try get information from Jackson. President Dapremont thanked him for helping.

#### **08.24.21.05 Old Business**

##### ***LMCIS phase 1 summary report - Zabihollah "Zabi" Rezaee, PhD***

President Dapremont reported that the Lean Management and Continuous Improvement Strategies (LMCIS) phase 1 is complete. Senator Zabi Rezaee met with Provost Nenon about the report. Senator Rezaee asked about phase 2. Provost Nenon thinks the EC should set the direction for phase 2 in terms of getting faculty involved in the management of their units. President Dapremont's position is that it's difficult for faculty to monitor the deans' budgets.

Parliamentarian Sunderman asked for clarification about phases 1 and 2. President Dapremont responded that phase 1 was the SWOT analysis with faculty input on budget issues. Senator Rezaee summarized those reports and presented them to deans. In phase 2 we are supposed to do a continuous monitoring of those processes. It is supposed to line up with the SRI model.

Parliamentarian Sunderman asked if the Provost was supposed to be involved in this process. President Dapremont responded that per Senator Rezaee, the process was initiated from the Provost's request.

Senator Thieme suggested that the EC should discuss these issues with Senator Rezaee before making any decisions on phase 2. President Dapremont suggested to invite Senator Rezaee to the next EC meeting and the EC agreed.

***Faculty Handbook updates on Lecturers and Instructor ranks– Jeff Marchetta, PhD***

President Dapremont (on behalf of Past-president Marchetta) spoke to the faculty handbook draft updates on lecturers and instructor ranks (see Appendix). There is no motion on this yet. Past-president Marchetta wants us to be aware of what's going on. For instructors there will be three levels: instructor, senior instructor, and master instructor. Instructors can't jump ranks. The next step is to take the draft to Provost Nenon before presenting to the Senate. She asked the EC members to send any suggestions on the drafts to Past-president Marchetta.

**08.24.21.06 New Business**

***Preparedness Committee meeting restarted 8/9/2021***

President Dapremont reported that the university Preparedness Committee meetings restarted on August 9. They will be meeting again this week on Friday.

Senator Nelson suggested that the committee should communicate to faculty the good news that there is good student compliance. President Dapremont responded that she's not sure if they want to report that.

Senator Nelson suggested to invite Dr. Justin Lawhead, Dean of Students, to a meeting to discuss how to handle student disruptions. President Dapremont responded that a podcast or video might be better. Senator Nelson agreed that a virtual format might be good.

***Policy Board Review (PBR) Committee update – Pat Travis***

President Dapremont yielded to President-elect Travis who reported that the PBR didn't do much this summer besides moving ahead on the freedom of speech policy. They are cranking back up again for the fall by reviewing all policies for potential revisions/updates.

***Criminal Justice Department Faculty Senator election 08/27/21– Bert Burraston***

President Dapremont reported that Senator Bert Burraston needs to be replaced. The Criminology and Criminal Justice Department will have an election September 27.

**08.24.21.07 Discussion Issues**

***New charge for a committee on the timing of the opening of course management systems to students each semester***

The EC discussed the issue of the timing of the opening of course management systems.

The EC agreed to send a charge to the Administrative Policies Committee. The charge will include the following that can be used as a starting point:

Be it resolved that,

The Faculty Senate asks ITS to open the university's learning management system to students on the first day of classes each semester. The learning management system should only be opened earlier than the first day of class each semester on an exception basis for specific course sections at the request of faculty responsible for that section.

**08.24.21.08 Announcements**

***David Kemme – Trustee Report***

President Dapremont yielded to Faculty Trustee Kemme who reported that the Board of Trustees will meet tomorrow, August 25. His committee (Academic, Research and Student Success Committee) has no action items. Some of the issues before the Board will be some court cases related to the NCAA, three academic dean introductions, and some new academic programs. One of the recent court cases is on name, image, and likeness compensation for student athletes. The situation is very fluid. Another unresolved issue is the court case involving James Wiseman and NCAA violations.

***Gloria Carr – Ombudsperson Report***

President Dapremont yielded to Dr. Gloria Carr, Ombudsperson, who had no report. Ombudsperson Carr asked when the FS would send out the call on the open Ombudsperson position. President Dapremont responded that the call will be sent out this week. Ombudsperson Carr asked if she should be on the search committee. President Dapremont responded that the Committee on Committees will populate the search committee and suggested that if she's interested in serving on that committee, she should reach out to the committee.

President Dapremont reviewed the FS agenda.

**08.24.21.09 Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 4:24 pm.

**Appendix**  
*Draft language for instructor ranks*

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