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**Faculty Senate**

**Minutes of the Executive Committee**

**Presiding:** DeAnna Owens-Mosby **Date:** September 19, 2023

**Secretary:** Jeni Loftus

**Members Present:** DeAnna Owens-Mosby (President and President-Elect), Jeni Loftus (Secretary), Mark Sunderman (Parliamentarian), Genae Strong (At-Large), W. Pat Travis (Past-President), Leah Windsor (At-Large) via zoom.

Guests: Jeff Marchetta (faculty trustee), Sara Bridges (omdudsperson), Deborah Tollefsen (dean of the graduate school)

**Members Absent:**

The meeting was held on Tuesday September 19th, 2023.

9.19.23.01 Call to Order

President DeAnna Owens-Mosby called the meeting of the Faculty Senate (FS) Executive Committee (EC) to order with a quorum at 2:46.

9.19.23.02 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

9.19.23.03 Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August 22nd, 2023, Faculty Senate Executive Committee (EC) meeting were approved.

9.19.23.04 President’s Report

COACHE Survey for Faculty Satisfaction to be distributed in February 2024.

Greg DuBois is the Interim CFO.

Candidates for the VP of enrollemnt will be selected October 6th.

Provost Russomanno announced that we will be adding an Assistant Provost of Academic Affairs initially focusing on microcredentials and conducting an inventory of current minors.

There will be a Safety and Security campaign which will include a poster, social, and video series forthcoming.

Several 2023 Fall Recruitment Programs including Memphis Area College Night, Freshman Virtual Info Sessions, U of M Fall Preview Day, and Bring Memphis to You - Birmingham, Little Rock, Jackson ,TN, Jackson, MS, Nashville, Murfreesboro, Dallas, TX, and Houston TX.

9.19.23.05 Old Business

Articles of Authority Revisions

This is still something we will do, we are delaying it while we deal with more pressing issues.

**9.19.23.06 New Business**

Health Insurance Mandates for International Students - Dr. Deb Tollefsen (Guest)

There was a mandate from the interim provost to ensure we have a student health insurance plan for graduate students and to move towards subsidizing graduate assistant student health plans. The university does not currently have a graduate student health plan, what we have now is a website that points them to a company that provides international students with health insurance. We have not required graduate students to purchase plans that are ACA compliant and have not required them to purchase coverage over the summer. This has caused many problems. We want and intend to offer subsidies for health insurance for graduate assistants in the future, we cannot offer subsidies if the plan students are on is not ACA compliant.

It was negotiated that the university would cover a 60% subsidy for full time graduate assistants. Half of that would come from central pool, half would come from the college where the student is housed. We signed a contract with WellFleet to offer these health insurance plans with the assumption we would be able to offer subsidies. However, it has now become clear that the university cannot offer subsidies right now as we do not have the funds to cover them. Most other R1 institutions do offer subsidies.

We are requiring students to move to plans that are ACA compliant and cover them for 12 months. These plans are more expensive. This is optional for domestic students, but mandatory for international students unless they can prove they have comparable insurance. This begins on January 1, 2024. We plan to offer subsidies in the future for fully funded Graduate Assistants. How we define fully funded is unclear.

Tollefsen has contacted the deans asking them if they can cover a part of the health insurance for the international graduate assistants as a first step in offering subsidies. She has gotten some understandable resistance from them.

Progress report from budget and finance committee on peer institutions

The president has produced a list of peer institutions for the university. Budget and Finance has asked for the list of variables for how this was calculated. They have received that list and have questioned the utility or importance of certain of those variables. They will run a new list based on the variables they deem most important. Zabi Rezaee will present a progress report to the senate during the next faculty senate meeting.

Motion to Approve Faculty Senate Representative Nominees for External Standing Committees – Committee on Committees

Motion to revise Appendix A of the Faculty Handbook to align the handbook with information gotten from the committees in terms of number of representatives and length of terms. Will be given to faculty policy committee to review and bring to the senate. Any change being a suggested for the faculty handbook must go through the faculty policies committee.

Motion to appoint representatives to the faculty appeals committee from Committee on Committees.

Ombudsperson search – Committee on Committees will work on creating a search committee for this search.

**9.19.23.07 Announcements**

9.19.23.08 Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 pm.