

FACULTY SENATE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES

October 2, 2023

IN ATTENDANCE:

OFFICERS: **Robert Sprague**, *Chair*; **Treva Sprout Ahrenholtz**, *Secretary*; **Renee Laegreid**, *Past-Chair*; **Ray Stuart Fertig III**, *Chair-elect*; **Vladimir Alvarado**, **Gregg Cawley**, **Tiger Robison** *Members-at-Large*. *Member-at-Large Godby was late due to a course conflict.*

Guests: **Steve Barrett**, *Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education*. **Tami Benham-Deal**, *Senior Vice Provost*. **Matt Griswold**, *Vice Provost for Online & Continuing Education*. **Blake McGee**, *Chair, Student Interaction Committee (Ex-Officio)*.

Chair Robert Sprague called the meeting of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSE) to order at 12:01 pm.

The Chair called for a motion to approve the agenda for October 2; made, seconded and carried. The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes of September 25; made, seconded and carried.

The Chair noted that the Chair's report would be the final part of the meeting to allow for a discussion around Acadeum and hybrid courses with Vice Provost Barrett, and Vice Provost Griswold. The Chair called special attention to the issues to address document that had been distributed with the meeting materials and explained that the document originated from an email between himself and Vice Provost Griswold. The Chair noted that he had charged the Student Interaction Committee to work with Vice Provost Barrett, Vice Provost Griswold, ASUW, and Staff Senate to address the issues that Acadeum posed.

The Chair yielded the floor to Vice Provost Griswold, who noted that there had already been extensive discussions around Acadeum. After providing background about Acadeum, Vice Provost Griswold stated that Acadeum had acknowledged that there were a great deal of complexities around UW becoming a home institution within their system and that Acadeum was willing to allow UW to hold control within their system to ensure course quality. Vice Provost Griswold noted that he had already reached out to Staff Senate and ASUW to see how they wished to be involved with this before opening the floor to questions. The Committee discussed.

Vice Provost Griswold noted that Acadeum had existed for longer than fifteen years and that there were 494 other institutions in their system, and that the overwhelming majority of those institutions were not four-year land grant colleges and that the majority were teaching rather than home institutions within their system, and that UW becoming a home institution would allow for greater vetting of course quality.

The Committee expressed concerns that the use of Acadeum could increase the number of students per each class and accordingly increase the workload of faculty without allowing for checks and balances. Senior Vice Provost Benham-Deal expressed that this would be an issue that would require a new University SAPP to ensure that faculty were not overloaded.

The Committee expressed concern that there was no way to guarantee that courses taken on Acadeum would adhere to UW standards. Chair McGee expressed concern that UW students could obtain a UW degree while strictly taking courses from other institutions via Acadeum. Vice Provost Griswold responded that this would be a question for Acadeum and that he was not sure how credits from Acadeum courses would be shown on a UW transcript. The Committee noted that SAPP 2-103 required UW students to take a certain number of credits at UW.

Vice Provost Griswold noted that implementation of Acadeum would require review of the regulations regarding the number of credits that must be taken from UW and the regulations regarding the accreditation of courses from other institutions. Vice Provost Barrett noted that the current regulations required 30 credit hours be taken at UW to obtain a degree.

Vice Provost Griswold noted that revenue from Acadeum would be a single lump sum to the University after a given period and that the use of that revenue had not yet been decided and would be subject to public input. Member-at-Large Godby expressed concern that this would be subject to some of the same problems seen with program fees where revenue does not entirely return to the program or college. When asked by the Committee, Vice Provost Griswold answered that he was not certain of how many students would register for Acadeum courses.

The Chair noted previous discussions on hybrid courses, and noted some confusion around what constituted a hybrid course and how hybrid courses would function within Acadeum before yielding the floor to Vice Provost Griswold to speak on hybrid courses. Vice Provost Griswold stated that there were both hybrid programs and hybrid courses, and that there were many of both and that he was not certain how many of them were currently active based on a document listing them which he shared with the Committee. Vice Provost Griswold expressed that many of these hybrid courses required in-person teaching, and felt that these courses should be subject to the standard tuition and fee process and their revenue should be distributed in accordance with that process. Vice Provost Griswold then provided the Committee with the current definitions for fully online, hybrid online, and distance before reviewing program definitions. The Committee discussed.

The Chair thanked Vice Provosts Barrett and Griswold and opened the floor for discussion of Senate Resolution 445: Criteria and Sources of Information for Reappointment, Tenure and Promotion SAPP. The Chair yielded the floor to Senior Vice Provost Benham-Deal who stated that the SAPP was meant to include new information on several topics, namely entrepreneurship and community engagement, and provide guidance around them accordingly. Senior Vice Provost Benham-Deal stated that she would be present for the following meeting of the Senate for their discussion. The Committee discussed.

The Chair reported that he had no report for the Committee.

The Chair called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:36 PM. Made, seconded, and carried.

