

**FACULTY SENATE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

13 November 2023

IN ATTENDANCE:

OFFICERS: Robert Sprague, *Chair*; Ray Fertig, *Chair Elect*; Renee Laegreid, *Past Chair*, Treva Sprout Ahrenholtz, *Secretary*, Gregg Cawley, Rob Godby, and Tiger Robison, and Vladimir Alvarado, *Members-at-Large*.

Guests: James Ahern, *Vice Provost for Graduate Education*, Saman Aryana, *Chair, Graduate Council*, Mandy Jane Gifford, *Chief of Staff to the Provost*.

Chair Robert Sprague called the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSE) meeting to order at 12:07 pm.

The Chair called for a motion to approve the agenda; motion made, seconded, and carried.

The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes of November 6; motion made, seconded, and carried.

The Chair noted that he had moved his Report below the update of the School of Graduate Education's by-laws. The Chair yielded the floor to Graduate Council Chair Saman Aryana to discuss a new draft of the School of Graduate Education's by-laws.

Chair Aryana noted that the changes to the by-laws had been in progress for over a year and that the changes were largely centered around determinations of who would be considered a graduate faculty member. Chair Aryana also stated that the Committee was hoping that some of the changes would allow for closer integration of the School of Graduate Education with the rest of the University.

Chair Aryana stated that under the draft, there are three categories of Graduate Faculty: Full Graduate Faculty, Associate Graduate Faculty, and Adjunct Associate Graduate Faculty. All tenured and tenure-track faculty are granted Full Graduate Faculty status, and these faculty members retain graduate faculty status throughout their tenure with the University, unless suspended. In general, tenured and tenure-track faculty members may serve on graduate student committees in all capacities. University faculty on rolling contract and fixed-term rolling contract lines are eligible for graduate faculty status appointment. Associate Graduate Faculty may serve as committee Chair at the Master's level; Co-Chair at the Doctoral level; and as a committee Member at Master's and Doctoral level. Adjunct Associate Graduate Faculty appointments may be granted to individuals who hold an Adjunct appointment in a University

department. Internal Adjunct Faculty may serve in any capacity that aligns with the privileges the faculty member possesses in their home department. External Adjunct Faculty may serve as members of graduate student committees at the Master's and Doctoral levels. Chair Aryana also noted that the by-laws could require some changes to the Faculty Senate's by-laws. The Committee discussed and decided to add this issue as an agenda item for its November 27 meeting.

Executive Committee members also noted language in the draft by-laws with respect to suspension or revocation of graduate faculty status; in particular that the draft by-laws did not specify what could lead to suspension or revocation. The Committee discussed.

Graduate Council Chair Aryana informed the committee that the Graduate Council will soon review and discuss a proposal to allow exceptions to the minimum number of credit hours earned in formal coursework for the Ph.D degree, meaning that there would be certain exemptions allowing for receipt of a Ph.D without taking any coursework. Chair Aryana noted that the Graduate Council had previously rejected the proposal several years before and asked the committee for their thoughts. The Committee discussed and was against the idea.

Chair-Elect Fertig asked Dean Ahern if there had been any discussions within the School of Graduate Education regarding low graduate assistant pay. The committee discussed.

The Executive Committee Chair then reported that he had received feedback from the Academic Planning Committee (APC) regarding the Bachelor of Applied Software Development proposal, and that the APC had a series of questions that they needed answered to before they could make a recommendation.

The Chair reported that the following NOI's for various degree programs and certificates had been sent to the Board of Trustees and would likely be approved:

- Bachelor of Arts in European Languages, Literature, and Film Studies
- BAS Organizational Leadership Minor and Certificate
- PHCY/BAS Health Leadership Minor and Certificate
- AG/BAS Agricultural Business Leadership Minor, Certificate, and Concentration
- Undergraduate Certificate in Nuclear Energy Science
- MS in Preclinical Sciences
- MS in Artificial Intelligence
- MS in Quantum Information Science & Engineering
- Graduate Certificate in Nuclear Energy Science, and
- PhD in English.

The Chair noted that the timeline on these would be strenuous. The Committee discussed.

The Chair reported that Co-Chair Fisher of the NextGen USP Committee had asked if the Executive Committee would like to send a representative to serve on the NextGen USP Committee. The Executive Committee noted that Secretary Sprout Ahrenholtz was already

serving on the Committee. Chief of Staff Gifford noted that Co-Chair Fisher had resigned his position, and that Academic Affairs would be looking to find a replacement with him. Secretary Sprout Ahrenholtz volunteered to be the Executive Committee's liaison with the NextGen USP Committee.

The Chair reported that Tim Wiseman, the Chief Response Officer, had asked if the Executive Committee would like to send a representative to serve on the Pandemic Response Committee. The Committee discussed and decided against the idea.

The Chair asked the Committee if they should invite a United Way representative to discuss their giving initiative to the Senate. The Committee decided in favor of the idea.

The Chair noted that Isa Helfgott would be joining the Senate at their November 27th meeting to discuss the Shorelight program for international students.

The Chair asked the Committee if they wanted to discuss the Faculty Workload report. The Committee discussed but moved to the next agenda item.

The Chair noted that he had sent the Committee drafts for proposed amendments to the Resolution endorsing the Freedom of Expression Principles. The Chair asked the Committee for their thoughts. The Committee discussed.

The Chair called for a motion to approve the Senate Agenda for November 27. Motion made, seconded, and carried.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded, and carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:23 pm.