

**FACULTY SENATE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

5 February 2024

IN ATTENDANCE:

OFFICERS: Robert Sprague, *Chair*; Ray Fertig, *Chair Elect*; Treva Sprout Ahrenholtz, *Secretary*, Gregg Cawley, Rob Godby, and Tiger Robison, *Members-at-Large*. *Member-at-large Alvarado was excused from the meeting.*

Guests: Mandy Jane Gifford, *Chief of Staff to the Provost.*

Chair Robert Sprague called the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSE) meeting to order at 12:22 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 January 29; motion made, seconded, and carried.

The Chair reported that the Senate would be meeting on February 19th despite of Presidents Day, since there would be an introduction of nominees for the following year's Executive Committee, and several administrators were scheduled to speak to the Senate at that meeting.

The Chair reported that he had invited Danika Salmans, Director of Internal Audit to speak at the February 5, 2024, Faculty Senate meeting after President Seidel regarding the upcoming Risk Assessment Survey. The Chair reported that the survey covers risks to fulfilling the University's Strategic Plan, including but not limited to Student Success; Faculty and Instructors capacity; and Resource limitations to Faculty and Staff Recruiting & Retention, with the aim of increasing Institutional excellence. The Chair encouraged the Committee to persuade their constituents to complete the survey. The Chair reported that he would need a motion to amend the Faculty Senate Agenda for February 5, 2024 to add Director Salmans after President Seidel. The Committee discussed.

The Chair reported that the proposed Graduate School by-laws had been approved by the Graduate Council and opened the floor to discussion of Senator Cheadle's proposed amendment to Paragraph V.c.ii.2.b. "non-tenure-stream Graduate Faculty Privileges." The Chair reported that the amendment would allow for master's level faculty to serve as the Chair of a Ph.D. committee with a letter of support from their home department. The Chair reported that Senator Wilhaus also had proposed an amendment, but that he had not received the text of the amendment. The Committee discussed.

The Chair reported that the Take a Trustee to Class project would go ahead on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, and that the Committee would need to identify approximately six 11:00-11:50 a.m. classes for the Trustees to visit. The Chair reported that the Committee could review the preliminary course list to identify suggested classes. The Chair reported that the Trustees would choose which class they wished to attend and be transported there by shuttle and escorted by students. The Committee discussed.

The Chair reported that he would be meeting with Nellie Haddad, University Ombudsperson, on Tuesday, February 6, to discuss interplay between Ombuds SAP and Regulation 2-2. The Chair reported that Ombudsperson Haddad is compiling a report which will include problems that Faculty members had faced with their Department Chairs. The Chair reported that the President had been working towards creating training for Department Chairs, but it was not completed. The Chair reported that he also wished to discuss general reasons faculty have complained about department chairs to help advise on future Department Chair leadership training. The Committee discussed. The Committee suggested that the creation of a university-wide training may not be necessary and instead Departments could research trainings that were held at the National level for their use. The Committee added that the President could instead emphasis a broader commitment to developing leadership across campus by methods other than seminars. The Chair suggested that the Committee discuss this with the President during the meeting of the full Faculty Senate.

The Chair reported that as noted in the Provost's Thursday message, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is hosting gatherings for faculty to discuss equitable faculty workloads with fellow colleagues. The Chair reported that these sessions will be led by Vice President for the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Zebadiah Hall. The Chair reported that he and Member-at-large Alvarado had been contacted by the Provost's Office to arrange sessions exclusively with Faculty Senators, with these sessions scheduled to last two hours. The Committee asked what the purpose of the meetings was. The Chair read from the Provost's message that they "are meant to be an informal and safe space to share personal thoughts on workloads while also having a chance to gain insight on other's opinions." The Chair reported that he was planning to schedule one of these sessions for a Monday when the Faculty Senate did not meet. The Committee discussed.

The Chair called for general announcements. None were made.

The Chair reported that he was repeating the discussion of the implementation of the Freedom of Expression Principles as an Agenda item due to a previous email from Dr. Martha McCaughey. The Chair reported that he had gone through the report and highlighted policies that were directly pertinent to Faculty. The Chair reported that he believed most current policies were generally adequate and that Dr. McCaughey should bring concerns to the Executive Committee as they arose, rather than reworking the full policy through Faculty Senate. The Committee expressed that there should at least be a chance to discuss the issue and raise concerns, and that it may be a good opportunity to work on student evaluations and other issues related to free expression that may not directly pertain to Faculty.

The Committee expressed concern that there was a lack of resources for the implementation of the Freedom of Expression Principles. Chief of Staff Gifford reported that she had spoken to Dr. McCaughey about creating a task force for the implementation process, but that none had been formed. Chief of Staff Gifford reported that there was a Community of Principles, which was assigned to meet once a month regarding the implementation of the principles, but that their role was discussion-only. The Committee asked the Chair if a Faculty Senate Committee had purview on the issue of Freedom of Expression. The Chair responded that the Faculty Academic Standards Rights, and Responsibilities Committee had been assigned to work on the issue previously. The Committee suggested that the charge of that committee be expanded to assist with the implementation process. The Committee discussed. The Committee decided that Dr. McCaughey should be advised to create a working group for the process, created in the same manner as the original Freedom of Expression working group. The Chair reported that he would recommend this to the President's office.

The Chair asked Secretary Sprout-Ahrenholtz if the Gen-ed Committee and the 2-13 SAPP committee should report. Secretary Sprout Ahrenholtz reported that the Gen-ed Committee had selected Chairs and asked Chief of Staff Gifford if she should provide an update at Faculty Senate. Chief of Staff Gifford stated that she would provide a report for Secretary Sprout Ahrenholtz to read at the February 5, 2024, meeting of the Faculty Senate. The Chair asked if the 2-13 Committee should report. Secretary Sprout-Ahrenholtz responded that the SAPP was still under review by the General Counsel's office and should not report. The Committee discussed.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded, and carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:33 pm.