

FACULTY SENATE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES

4 March 2024

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

Guests: Tara Evans, *General Counsel*, Mandy Jane Gifford, *Chief of Staff to the Provost*, Jill Johnson, *Director of International Students and Scholars and Vice President for Global Engagement*.

Chair Robert Sprague called the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSE) meeting to order at 12:16 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 February 26; motion made, seconded, and carried.

The Chair introduced General Counsel Tara Evans and Director of International Students and Scholars Jill Johnson for discussion of the proposed International Employees, Scholars, and Students – Visas and Statuses SAP. General Counsel Evans noted that the SAP had been brought to the attention of the University Deans and they had several comments regarding the SAP before opening the floor to questions. General Counsel Evans reported that the Deans were mainly concerned with the cost of sponsoring applicants, which varied from \$4,000-\$14,000, and wanted to see the cost of sponsorship paid by departments. General Counsel Evans reported that the more expensive sponsorships generally involved seeking outside counsel or having issues with an applicant’s credentials, and that there was no way of being certain of the cost associated with the sponsorship process. The Committee suggested that the department pay for the filing fees of an application, explaining that they were set at a fixed rate and wouldn’t place too heavy of a burden on the departments.

The Committee asked if there were any potential legal issues from violations of Equal Protection Laws, and where they might arise. General Counsel Evans responded that they could add a statement to the policy clarifying the University was an Equal Opportunity employer and would not discriminate based on national origin. The Committee offered that an international candidate would need to be informed of the uncertainty of the immigration process at the start of the hiring process. The Committee discussed.

The Chair yielded the floor to General Counsel Tara Evans for discussion of proposed updates to the Travel Policy SAP. The Chair asked if online faculty would be compensated under the SAP if they were required to attend in-person training. General Counsel Evans responded that the SAP was written to ensure that if the job was listed as in-person, rather than remote, then the person would not be reimbursed and was not directed at remote employees. The Committee asked if hybrid staff and faculty would be compensated for traveling to the University. General Counsel Evans responded that they would not.

The Committee asked if University Fleet vehicles would need to be left at an airport if a faculty member attended a conference. General Counsel Evans responded that she would ask that question but that they most likely wouldn't. The Committee asked if faculty would receive the full reimbursement rate if there were no fleet vehicles available. General Counsel Evans responded that they would. The Committee asked the reasoning behind the SAP. General Counsel Evans responded that most state agencies adhered to this policy and that the University was trying to adhere more closely to those policies. The Committee discussed.

The Chair reported that he had notified the Chair of the Faculty Academic Standards, Rights and Responsibilities (FASRR) Committee, Casey Frome, that the Executive Committee's preference is that one person from FASRR will join President Seidel's Implementation of the Freedom of Expression Principles Working Group to monitor efforts and report to the Committee when necessary. The Chair reported that Paula Martin of the Library had agreed to serve on the working group.

The Chair reported that the Graduate Council supported, with a few reservations, the proposed Master of Science degrees in Quantum Information Science & Engineering and AI. The Chair reported that he had received updated documents addressing the Graduate Councils reservations. The Chair reported that Resolutions of Support would be Introduced at the March 25, 2024, Faculty Senate meeting and voted on at the April 8, 2024, meeting.

The Chair reported that the Graduate Council had voted in support of reducing the Minimum PhD Committee Members from 5 to 4 as detailed in the proposed Graduate Committee Formation SAP.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded, and carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:16 pm.