

Faculty Senate – Executive Committee

Minutes

Monday, April 14, 2025

Attendance: Ray Stuart Fertig III (*Chair*), Ashley Hope Carlisle (*Member-at-Large*), Treva Sprout-Ahrenholtz (*Secretary*), Vladimir Alvarado (*Member-at-Large*), Tiger Robison (*Member-at-Large*), Rob Godby (*Chair-Elect*), Greg Cawley (*Member-at-Large*), Evan Johnson (*Chair-Elect AY 2025-2026*),

Absent:

Guest(s): Michelle Jarman – Zoom (*WIND*), Mandy Gifford (*Chief of Staff to the Provost*)

Meeting called to order at 12:21pm.

A motion was made to approve the agenda; seconded, carried.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the last session; seconded, carried.

Chair's Remarks

Chair brought up continued discussion of the Test-Optional Admittance policy for the University and invited Vice-Provost for Enrollment (Kyle Moore) for a visit to address the Faculty Senate.

Other Business

Discussion then turned to the Equal Opportunity SAPP, and further discussion of forthcoming changes to be made.

Michelle Jarman arrived on Zoom and addressed the committee regarding the SAPP, particular sections 4, 5, and 6, wanting to build in protection for faculty and students regarding academic freedom.

Michelle discussed specific issues regarding language options in Section 4, include specific languages oriented along the lines of diversity, equity and inclusion. Part of the concern was about the complaint process and resolution that may tie into DEI prohibitions established by the state legislature.

Section 5 was a general prohibition requiring an employee or student to attend any mandated DEI classes. Issues concerning section five were considered and discussed by the committee, including the current lack of a definition of “institutional discrimination” and some clarifying language being offered by Michelle Jarman.

Section 6 is focused on the College of Arts and Sciences, and diversity requirements within the college itself. Goal of section 6 is to remove diversity requirements from non-specific degree requirements and general education requirements (USP).

Some concerns that the SAPP dictates academic materials without a directive from the legislature.



Mandy Gifford added some clarification about language, intent, and things that may or may not be forthcoming from upper-level administrators on Campus.

Mandy Gifford addressed a forthcoming issue regarding process 2-13 for the discontinuance of several programs across campus. This list is regarded as a “clean-dump” list and was proposed by the departments and the deans of the respective colleges.

Committee moved into Executive Session at 12:56p.

Committee returned to public session at 2:02p.

A motion to approve amended agenda for faculty senate 4/21/25 was made; seconded, carried.

Motion to adjourn at 2:03pm; seconded, carried.