

Faculty Senate – Executive Committee

Minutes

Monday, April 21, 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*), Brad Rettler (*Member-at-Large, AY 2025-2026*)

Absent:

Guest(s): Mandy Gifford (*Chief of Staff to the Provost*), Michelle Hillaire (*VP Undergraduate Education*)

Meeting called to order at 12:17pm.

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

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

Chairs Report

One more meeting left in the semester for Faculty Senate to meet.

Chair met with the research advisory committee last week. Punitive measures being entertained to curtail late grant proposal submissions were agreed to be tabled until the May meeting. Chair suggested some changes to drive the needed change without resorting to punitive measures. Chair suggested more communication while acknowledging that there is a fair bit of difficulty in how many emails go out to faculty, and that improved communication via email may not be the most effective method. Temporary solution would be raising awareness and driving communication efforts to improve grant submission timeliness requirements from about 50% to about 85%.

Further discussion by various committee members and assorted guests of further changes coming along. Discussion of changes to fines and fees being established by the Office of General Counsel, including a fee for drivers on university business being required to pay for at-fault accidents. Implication that The Office of General Counsel isn't following procedures in amending fee books and fines. Changes were approved by the Board of Trustees.

Rob Godby has assumed Ray's chair on the Presidents Executive Cabinet and does not have a lot to report. A good bit of conversation about shared governance. And another good long conversation about the implications of federal funding changes. Discussion of messaging relating to low morale problems and a few suggestions were made; implication of heightened need to work together better. Identification of a few 'flash' points here on Campus. Optics of the situation in regarding how the university is being perceived by the rest of the state, and more importantly, the legislature.

Discussion of the recommended changes to T&P Process from a resolution several years ago (Resolution 439), and that the Faculty Senate changes were ignored, and altered after the fact before being turned into the Board of Trustees and subsequently approved.

Discussion of the last vote of “No Confidence” in a President, which occurred in 1977 as well as the factors that went into the vote. The irony of history repeating itself, repeatedly, was discussed by Chair-Elect Godby. Discussion of the where “decisions are being made”. Initial report on shared governance is to be made to the Board of Trustees by the end of May.

Other Business

The committee discussed Resolution 493, regarding the School of Computing, as well as the Academic Planning Committee’s remarks over learning objectives for the proposed program changes, and the movement of the applied computing degree to within the School of Computing, as a concurrent degree, with the possibility of revisiting next fall as might be required. Future of Data Science degree may also be changing. Discussion of amendments to be offered to Resolution, and the necessity to emphasize in the resolution that a stand-alone program is the only one being approved of by Faculty Senate at this point.

Discussion of the necessity of amending the Senate Agenda to introduce Resolution 493 to the Faculty Senate.

Discussion of the Equal Opportunity and Prohibited Efforts SAPP, and the efforts to model and adjust the SAPP. The SAPP is to be voted on most likely 5/5/25 and additional commentary is being sought from divers’ stakeholders to better shape the SAPP and clarify the meanings behind the policy.

Discussion of Resolution 489, the follow-on resolution to the Resolution 488 (No Confidence in President Seidel), which suggests a couple of a potential ways forward to reestablish trust and promote shared governance. Chair doesn’t yet want to subject the Resolution to a vote this week and would like to make some changes before subjecting the bill to a vote. Final decision was made to hold off on voting for the Resolution at this week’s session of the Faculty Senate. Some discussion over the potential changes to be made, the lack of accountability of the administration, and the necessity of rebuilding trust through the admission of mistakes. Discussion of people taking or refusing to take responsibility for their actions.

Discussion of some of the specific issues that went into the crafting of Resolution 488, and the perceptions of both the broader Campus community, and the state overall. Mandy Gifford noted that the Board of Trustees is not holding ‘certain individuals’ accountability, when they really should, and further noted that it is their job to oversee the health of the university. Chair Elect Godby noted that the flow of information to the trustees is truncated, and limited.

Discussion of the role of the Shared Governance Committee and the implications and possible effects of that committee in the community.

Discussion of the 2-13 program review for programs that are low producing, across campus and with the advice of the Deans, recommending the dissolution of the programs. A revised version of the proposal will be sent out.

Motion to Adjourn at 1:46pm; seconded, carried.