

MINUTES
Faculty Senate Executive Committee
Special Meeting

Friday, June 5, 2020, 9:00 am

Zoom ID: 733 588 376 / <https://ksu.zoom.us/j/733588376>

Present: Valerie Barnett, Maria Beebe, Brad Behnke, LaVerne Bitsie-Baldwin, Nathan Bothwell, Memory Buffington, Kim Charland, Brett DePaola, Jared Durtschi, Carolyn Ferguson, Tanya González, Mishelle Hay McCammant, Mo Hosni, Judy Hughey, Dan Ireton, David Lehman, Mindy Markham, Amanda McDiffett, Michael McGlynn, Michael Raine, Don Saucier, Tom Schermerhorn, Phil Vardiman, Don Von Bergen, and Rick Zajac

Guests: Kelley Brundage, Brian Niehoff

1. President Mindy Markham called the meeting to order at 9:01 am and presented a Land Acknowledgement for Kansas State University lands. She thanked all for joining in for this special meeting on short notice.
2. The May 26, 2020 Executive Committee minutes are not quite prepared and will be considered at the next executive committee meeting.
3. New Business
 - A. Proposed amendment to Fall 2020 Academic Calendar as presented from the University Calendar committee – **Attachment 1**

President Markham provided some background information. FS has been asked to review and approve the proposed change to the Fall 2020 academic calendar. The change is for an earlier start day of classes; August 17 rather than August 24, and the last day of classes would then be December 4 with the last day of finals on December 11. The rationale is to allow for in person instruction through the thanksgiving break and then have prep week and finals week transition to online after the break. This will reduce the number of people moving back and forth between campus and their home communities in an effort to reduce the possible spread of the COVID-19 virus. We need the academic calendar set in order to communicate this to the campus community and then work can begin on other related decisions.

The university calendar committee met to review options and approved the changes outlined in Attachment 1 for fall 2020. The role of the Executive Committee at this stage is to review and determine if we endorse this decision so the Provost can then submit it to KBOR for final approval.

A motion was made and seconded to endorse the proposed changes to the Fall 2020 Academic Calendar.

Discussion: Communication with students will be vital in order to make sure they understand the layout of the fall semester and when prep week and finals will be. It was noted that for

new and returning international students there will be significant challenges. We need to ask faculty to consider the accommodations for our students joining courses a week later.

It was verified that coordination has occurred with the USD 383 school district as we change our calendar; they are set to begin instruction on August 12th. It was also clarified Exec is only endorsing the calendar change, not mode of instruction. This is the first step in the process.

The student perspective was provided. Both students and young alumni were asked about the possibility of a calendar shift and they overwhelmingly think this would be best. There are, however, concerns for international students, looking into second semester and facing two months without instruction.

Additional concerns are related to revenue and dorm contracts. There will be a change for housing and dining, which has been discussed at the cabinet level and all are in favor of this change. This question will be conveyed to the President's Cabinet.

The vote was called for and the **motion carried** to endorse the calendar change. President Markham will report this to the provost.

We should see communication about the calendar change next week and this will be announced to senators at the June Faculty Senate meeting. There will be an announcement by the President as well once the calendar is approved by KBOR.

Committee members continued conversing about teaching and budget concerns. President Markham gave an update on the budget planning and reported there will not be a university wide administrative furlough. However, there will be units that will individually utilize administrative furloughs. There will be at least 30 days between the announcement to the university of administrative furloughs and when those can go into effect. Units have to provide their plans to administration by June 15. Per the PPM guidance, Faculty Senate will be part of those discussions once administration has their proposed plan.

We will need a quorum for the Executive committee over the summer. If you will not be available, please arrange for a proxy from your caucus in the event a meeting needs called.

Multiple questions and concerns were raised relating to furloughs and the use of university email, such as by faculty who serve on boards or review teams, for emergency situations that could possibly occur in labs, and so on. It was noted that there will be no turning on or turning off access by central IT. A plethora of other questions were raised regarding furloughs. President Markham is collecting these and asked that they be sent to her so she can share them with the appropriate groups. The furlough guidelines developed in 2017 will also be sent to exec.

President Markham congratulated Dan Ireton as new co-chair of FSCOUP and Brett DePaola as new co-chair of FSCOT.

4. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am.

Respectfully submitted by,
LaVerne Bitsie-Baldwin
Faculty Senate Secretary

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 25, 2020; 3:30 pm – unless otherwise needed