

MINUTES
Faculty Senate Executive Committee
Tuesday, March 26th, 2024, 3:30 pm
4061 Business Building

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

Present: Andy Bennett, Graciela Berumen, Regina Crowell, Carson Cuesta, Brad Cunningham, Monica Curnutt, Joel DeRouchey, Teresa Douthit, Jared Durtschi, Pamela Erickson, Renee Gates, Daniel Higgins, Cassie Jones, Julia Keen, Marianne Korten, Ryan Leimkuehler, Terry Mason, Tareque Nasser, Michael Oetken, Michael Raine, Tom Schermerhorn, Andy Thompson, Phil Vardiman, Don Von Bergen, Andy Wefald

Absent: Brandon Kliewer, Colby Moorberg, Mary (Bowen) Sullivan, Kortnee Van Nest, and La Barbara Wigfall

Proxies: Andy Bennett for Don Saucier

1. President Von Bergen called the meeting to order at the Land Acknowledgment was played.
2. Approval of February 27th Executive Committee minutes
President Von Bergen inquired if there were any edits or corrections to the minutes. Seeing none and with no objection the minutes stood approved as submitted.

3. New Business

- A. University Calendar Committee proposal, Wildcat Pause Day – first reading (**Attachment 1**)
President Von Bergen entertained a motion and a second to place this proposal on the upcoming Faculty Senate agenda for a first reading. A motion was made by Senator Bennett and seconded to do so.

Discussion: It was suggested that having members of the calendar committee present for the first reading would be wise. Also, senators were asked to consider the imbalance of class days in the Fall and Spring semester. This will impact how instructors set up their courses.

It was asked what the vote in senate would mean on this. President VonBergen reminded senators that the vote would represent an endorsement or non-endorsement, but at the end of the day the provost has the last say in the decision.

Senator Bennett shared that because it will be a first reading there will be time to perhaps make some minor changes, if necessary, after the meeting and before the vote in May.

Motion Carried.

4. Report from Standing Committees, Graduate Student Council, and Senates

- A. Academic Affairs – Andy Bennett/Brandon Kliewer
Senator Bennett shared that during their meeting over Spring Break the committee discussed and acted of many course and curriculum proposals, which were acted on during the March Senate meeting. They also discussed the recommendation for a Wildcat Pause Day. They will still work through some K-State Core curriculum proposals in April but feel confident they will soon finish reviewing all the changes submitted.

- B. Faculty Affairs – Brad Cunningham/Tareque Nasser
 - *Proposal from Salaries and Fringe Benefits Committee – (tentative)*

- *Proposed change to University Handbook – Policy Development Process (tentative)*
- *KBOR Faculty of the Year Award Criteria (tentative)*

The salaries and fringe benefits proposal regarding non-tenure track promotions has been reviewed to make it more concise and non-confrontational. The proposal is down to two pages, with an expanded clarification about the minimum 7.5% recommended. They will review at the next meeting then present again to exec in March any additional feedback or concerns and then it will go on to Senate for review in April.

Senator Cunningham moved to place the University handbook policy development process, as a place holder, for upcoming April 9th Faculty Senate meeting agenda provided the proposal passes on April 3rd. Senator Bennett seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Senator Cunningham moved to place the Faculty of the Year Award Criteria proposal, as a place holder, for upcoming April 9th Faculty Senate meeting agenda provided the proposal passes on April 3rd at Faculty Affairs. Senator Bennett seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

- C. Graduate Student Council – Kortnee Van Nest
No update.
- D. Justice, Equity, Diversity, Access, Inclusion, and Identify – Graciela Berumen/Pamela Erickson
No update.
- E. Professional Staff Affairs – Monica Curnutt/Renee Gates
Senator Gates noted there is no formal update because they have not met. However, she was asked to serve on the notice of non-reappointment policy working group. She encouraged the senators to provide her with any information they feel this group should consider.
- F. Student Senate – Carson Cuesta
New student senate speaker, Carson Cuesta, introduced himself and will be joining the Exec and Faculty Senate meetings going forward.
- G. Technology – Michael Raine/Phil Vardiman
Senator Raine reminded senators that bad actors continue to test and attempt to get into the system. He urged all to continue to be vigilant and to reach out to the help desk if they see or hear anything concerning. Also, Cyber Security training will begin on April 1st and has been improved.

There was an inquiry about the final report being received. Senator Raine shared that the 100-page report has been received and, for privacy purposes, will be released with specifics redacted. The response detection company, Cloud Strike, did forensics on about 4,000 on campus devices and helped rebuild infected computers and systems to have a clearer understanding of what may have been affected. Due to the legal liability the university wants to be careful.

It was asked if there have been any postmortem conversations about the true financial impact of this cyber incident. Another senator shared that department heads have the approval to replace equipment and to pay overtime to hourly employees. Salaried employees are not legally required to

receive any reimbursement of labor. Senator Raine added that the Cyber Security policy is a liability policy and not intended for reimbursement of labor.

The main concern isn't the reimbursement, but rather the need for the institution to understand the cost of time lost due to this event. This data could be used to better inform cyber security investment moving forward. It was agreed that the opportunity cost has been very high, noting as well that currently Cloud Strike is 2.5 million a year. President Von Bergen and Senator Gates shared an update about the approval of increasing the regent's cyber security policy to 30 million.

H. University Planning – Cassie Jones/Marianne Korten

No report.

I. University Support Staff Senate – Regina Crowell

Senator Crowell reminded all of the USS Awards and recognitions scheduled for May 22nd at 11:00 am.

5. Announcements

A. [KBOR meeting report](#)

President Von Bergen deferred senators to the K-State Today announcement about the meeting and also noted the draft minutes get published on the KBOR website fairly soon after the meetings.

B. Faculty Senate 2024 elections concluding

President Von Bergen reminded caucus chairs that final elections should be closing, and results are due to Candace by the 28th. Those results will then be shared with senators at the April meeting and a K-State Today announcement will go out after the May meeting to campus announcing new senators along with the newly elected president elect and secretary.

C. Grievance Chair candidate (2024-2027)

President Von Bergen shared that Senator Roger Adams has requested the chance to serve as Grievance Chair. If there are no others that come forward prior to the April Exec meeting, he will ask this body to act on appointing Roger for the upcoming 2024-2027 term.

D. Spring open forum – April 2nd, 3:30 pm, Alumni Center

As a reminder, the open forum will be next Tuesday at 3:30 pm. As a reminder, please work with your caucuses to come up with a couple of questions and share those with President Von Bergen so he can be aware of what is on your minds to ask. These will not be submitted to administration but are merely for his information.

Senator Korten would like to add a question about the line schedule to the program if there is still concern at that time.

E. Faculty and Professional Staff Retiree Ceremony – April 24th, 4 pm, Alumni Center

The annual ceremony and reception will occur next month for those faculty and professional staff who are retiring this year. The announcement with the list of those persons will go out to K-State Today this week.

F. Guest for April 9th FS meeting: Interim Provost Mercer

President Von Bergen reminded members that Interim Provost Mercer will attend the April 9th Faculty Senate meeting. He briefly shared the couple of topics she may touch on.

6. Open discussion period for senators as needed

Senator Leimkuehler shared that April is records management month and there will be training available and a form to sign up for a scheduled Shred Day, the truck will be located in Bosco Plaza. Cyber Security event highlighted we keep things too long, so these trainings will be important to determine what we need to keep or get rid of.

Senator Bennett shared that K-State has been giving micro-credentials and academic affairs was in the process of working on handbook language for these, which would have included a definition of what is a “learner.” However, Title IV of the Higher Education Act is under review, which is the title that covers student financial aid, but also intertwines with this definition. Therefore, due to the fact our lawyers have asked us not to define this until there is clarity from the federal government about how defining a “learner” may impact financial aid, this will cause a delay in the proposal moving forward. That proposal will be worked on next academic year, and we will continue using the approval process in place without official handbook documentation at this point.

Senator Erickson reminded all about the Campus Master Plan feedback sessions today, at 4:30 to 5:30 in the Alumni Center. There's also a virtual session this evening from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.

Senator Keen requested an update on the textbook pilot proposal. Senator Cunningham shared that the interim director has been keeping the initiative going but the meetings are disorganized, and it appears the initiative is moving forward. Senator Raine shared they are doing a demonstration of the system to different groups across campus. The technical integrations for this proposal are complete and ready to be activated. Senator Bennett and Cunningham shared that currently there are federal regulations that impact any initiative that automatically opts students in. Senator Keen and Korten reminded the senate that we are not comfortable with going forward without information from the pilot. It was requested that we follow up on it before implementation occurs. Senator Raine will reach out and ask Scott Finkeldei for any status information and will provide an update at the next Faculty Senate meeting. President Von Bergen shared that currently there are only about five faculty from Salina participating in the pilot and believes that VP Lane has the final say.

7. The meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Graciela Berumen,
Faculty Senate Secretary

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 30, 2024; 3:30 pm