

MINUTES

Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Tuesday, January 10th, 2023, 3:30 pm

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

Present: Katy Bach, Andy Bennett, Graciela Berumen, Memory Buffington, Marcellus Caldas, Brad Cunningham, Elizabeth Dodd, Jared Durtschi, Todd Gabbard, Renee Gates, Mishelle Hay McCammant, Mary Lynn Higginbotham, Julia Keen, Elizabeth Kiss, Brandon Kliewer, Laurel Littrell, Jennifer Miller, Michael Oetken, Evan Porter, Michael Raine, Don Saucier, Brandon Savage, Tom Schermerhorn, Andy Thompson, Phil Vardiman, Don Von Bergen, Andy Wefald, and Julie Yu-Oppenheim

Absent: Rebecca Adams, Tucker Graff, Monica Macfarlane

Proxies: Hay McCammant for Gragg and Todd Gabbard for Michael McGlynn

Guests/Visitors: Regina Crowell, Daniel Ireton, Mary Kohn

1. President Don Saucier called the meeting to order and a Land Acknowledgment was played.
2. President Saucier inquired if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes of the November 29th Executive Committee meeting. Seeing none and with no objection, these were considered approved as submitted.

President Saucier also wanted to share a few thoughts with members about the process and purpose of these meetings. As with all Executive committee meetings, senators are voting to place proposed items on the upcoming Faculty Senate agenda, not voting on whether they support or reject them. Feedback is valuable and determining whether something is ready for discussion at the full Senate meeting. Additionally, these meetings guide caucus and committee chairs about what information they need to take back and share with their constituents. This not only allows all senators to be more informed, but also assists in making the best use of the full Senate meetings.

It is also the desire to be aware of the procedures for the upcoming special Senate meeting. The due date for potential amendments was yesterday. These potential amendments were shared with you this morning. No amendments will be accepted on the floor of the senate meeting, as was agreed to. Caucus position statements that were also received by yesterday have been shared in a supplemental informational file. Though there will likely be comments reflecting the nature of those statements, it is not the intention to have caucus chairs read these in their entirety on the senate floor. Additionally, the Senate meetings are open, but only faculty senators may vote on a proposal. Lastly, we want to remember to be civil to each other during this process. We may not always agree with each other, but we are on the same team working for the same goal of providing excellent education to the students here at K-State and therefore we want to be respectful and courteous to one another.

Seeing no questions regarding this, President Saucier turned things over to Academic Affairs.

3. Report from Academic Affairs
 - A. Academic Affairs – Andy Bennett/Brandon Kliewer
 - Proposed K-State General Education Core (for action) – **Attachment 1**
 - Tracked version of proposal – **Attachment 2**
 - i. Including retiring of the K-State 8
 - ii. Including proposed change to University Handbook, [Section F120](#)

- Proposed expedited process for course and curriculum changes related to becoming compliant with the K-State General Education Core (for action) - **Attachment 3**
- Potential amendments to Proposed K-State General Education Core – **Attachment 4**

Senator Bennett discussed the proposals relating to the general education proposal coming forward from Academic Affairs. He mentioned that some minor suggestions came forward, including from the Office of the Provost, surrounding abbreviations and wording, as happens occasionally after a first reading. One of these was related to the acronym being used for this general education program and the other was a correction of the word “statewide” to “systemwide” courses. These were incorporated into the documents. Therefore, related to the proposals being brought forward, Academic Affairs will plan to make motions on the following:

- K-State Core and retiring the K-State 8
- K-State General Education Council and process to add courses to the approved list
- Expedited Approval Process for course/curriculum changes related to the K-State Core

Note: The Expedited Approval Process was not part of the first reading but was approved by the Academic Affairs committee in December. It was requested to be part of this package and there have been no objections to this. The process states that changes needed to be compliant with the new K-State Core will be treated as expedited including ones with impact to other units. This approval process will be in place through May 2024. It may be possible for these changes to be approved in 4-5 weeks, depending on when they get submitted and approved at the college level.

Senator Bennett noted that currently all the amendments are written to change the full proposal, not just a piece at a time. Therefore, the recommendation is to present a main motion to adopt the K-State Core and to retire the K-State 8 as it stands now, rather than break it up into two motions. Conversation occurred and consensus was reached on a potential fallback plan in the rare case that this main motion fails and there is need to only work with buckets one through six.

Bennett moved to place attachments 1-4 on the upcoming Faculty Senate meeting agenda. Since some of the concerns presented happened since the last meeting a second was requested for the motion presented. Motion was seconded by Senator Vardiman.

Discussion:

Clarification about the timeline was asked for if there is a fall back in the January meeting. Bennett responded that depending on the reason for the fall back it is difficult to predict how it will affect the timeline. There were questions on the amendments and how they will be put forward. It was explained that a senator, either the caucus chair or another arranged member of the caucus, will need to make a motion to consider an amendment, and have it seconded. It is not required that all amendments be voted on, therefore, they are listed as *potential* amendments. Each caucus will want to wait until the correct main motion has been made before the amendment is raised. For example, the first main motion will be to approve the K-State Core and retire the K-State 8. If a potential amendment is related to that piece, it would be appropriate to raise it during that portion. However, if not, it should likely wait until the next to establish the K-State Core General Education Council. In short, each caucus may want to visit about where they believe their amendment should be raised. Meaningful discussion is desired, and senators will certainly be provided an opportunity to speak.

Senators celebrated the effort expended by Academic Affairs on this heavy lift. Senator Bennett shared that gratitude specifically with his co-chair Senator Kliewer and his help during this process.

Motion carried.

Amendments will be distributed with the meeting agenda. President Saucier reiterated that the amendments presented in Attachment 4 are possible amendments until caucuses present them. Caucuses were encouraged to discuss who will present an amendment and perhaps share that with President Saucier, so he can call on that senator if needed. However, if there seems to be a clear time for an amendment, a caucus can certainly proceed to make it.

A request for clarification was raised on a previous concern related to utilizing “free” or “open” prior to the word “electives” in the proposal. It had been stated this may not be reflected as we desire. Various comments and suggestions were made, and Senator Kliewer also provided context for why the word electives has been utilized. He pointed out that a challenge we’re working through is that we don’t have the language agreed upon yet for bucket 7. Another senator reminded all that based on KBOR rules programs cannot require additional courses. We want to make sure we do not imply that we are requiring students to take additional courses. Elective Credit Hours was suggested as an alternative that would appropriately describe the classes that are institutionally required.

There was much productive discussion by members, and the parliamentarian, regarding the topic and how to proceed. In the spirit of maximizing discussion time during the Faculty Senate meeting for other matters, such as the proposal and amendments, it was decided that if this body came to a consensus, then the typo would be changed. No objections were presented, and it was the consensus this typo will be corrected and should be phrased “elective credit hours” in the appropriate portions of the proposal. Caucus chairs also were in favor of their amendments and statements being updated to reflect this in time for the Senate meeting. This will be cared for, and documents will be updated prior to sending them out for the FS meeting. Academic Affairs will meet next week and can verify their consensus or raise any objections to it if needed.

President Saucier will let senators know at the start of the meeting what procedures are in place for the votes and that not all amendments have to be voted on.

All were thanked for the diligence and attention to this proposal.

4. Announcements

It was shared that the Strategic Planning Group continues to make progress. The six themes have been identified and will be shared out, at which time committees will work to be filled. Also, on Jan. 18, 19, and 20 there will be the open forum opportunities for the Executive Director of Recruitment and Admissions from 2-3 pm.

5. Open discussion period for senators as needed - none

6. The meeting was adjourned at 4:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Graciela Berumen

Faculty Senate Secretary

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 31, 2023; 3:30 pm