

**Kansas State University Faculty Senate  
Faculty Affairs Committee  
Minutes**

**October 19, 2021, 3:30 pm**

**Via Zoom**

**<https://ksu.zoom.us/j/837797836>**

- **Call to Order Faculty Affairs – Marcellus Caldas and Veronica Denison (co-chairs)**
  - Present: Veronica Denison, Vicki Sherbert, Justin Kastner, Melody LeHew, Jessica Spare, Marcellus Caldas, Cliff Hight, Tanya González, Brandon Savage, Nick Saia
- **Approve October 5, 2021 Minutes**
- **Committee Reports**
  - **Salaries and Fringe Benefits Committee:** Justin Kastner
    - No report
  - **University Handbook and Policy Committee:** Brandon Savage
    - Cliff – Committee is reviewing Section F and preparing updates.
- **Completed Business:**
  - **Moved to 2022-23:** Department Head vs. Department Chair in Handbook
- **Old and Continuing Business**
  - Report on Promotion and Tenure Document Sections for Community Engagement and Societal Benefit. Defining “community engagement” for possible inclusion in the university handbook. Subcommittee: Marcellus, Veronica, Tanya, La Barbara, Melody
    - Veronica - Committee is working on the definition of ‘community engagement’.
  - Voluntary early retirement offer information: Veronica and Marcellus
    - Veronica brought concerns raised in our FA committee to Laurel. Questions will be raised during the Town Hall meeting this Friday.
  - Items from Faculty Senate Year-Long Agenda
    - 2. Review and advocate promotion and tenure, and grievance processes in light of best practices for diversity and inclusion (as items are presented to Faculty Affairs by Social Justice subcommittee)
      - No report
  - Issues facing faculty in the COVID-19 era?
    - Marcellus – Possibility of concern regarding federal mandate for vaccination for those working under federal grants.
    - Veronica – General Counsel is looking into the dilemma regarding conflicting ‘Catch 22’ situation with regard to funding.
    - Justin suggested an op-ed celebrating the high faculty and staff vaccination rate (85%).
    - Brandon mentioned a concern from another senator in his caucus regarding students refusing to wear masks in classes.

- Tanya recommended encouraging people to report using the surveys and tools so we have collective information in addition to isolated anecdotal information.
- **New Business for 2021-2022**
  - Discussion of mandatory and optional syllabus statements summaries and link creation for syllabi
    - Veronica – Don will be sharing examples in the coming days. Brandon will work with Veronica.
- **Future Business**
  - No future business brought forward at this time.
- **From Committee Members**
- **Announcements**
  - **Reminder of Town Hall this Friday**
- **Adjourn**
- **Next meeting: November 2, 2021, 3:30 pm**
- **Upcoming meetings**
  - **November 2, 2021**
  - **November 16, 2021**
  - **December 7, 2021**
  - **December 21, 2021 - Tentative**