

MINUTES
Executive Committee
Tuesday, November 14, 2023
3:00pm – Microsoft Teams

Present: Melinda Smith, Chair; Joseph DiVerdi, Vice Chair; Andrew Norton, BOG Representative; Sue Doe, Immediate Past Chair; Jessica Watkinson (substituting for Amy Barkley), interim Executive Assistant; Jennifer Martin, Agricultural Sciences; Rob Mitchell, Business; Sharon Anderson, Health and Human Sciences; Christine Pawliuk, Libraries; William Sanford, Natural Resources; Michael Antolin, Natural Sciences; Zaid Abdo (substituting for Katriana Popichak), Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences; Sybil Sharvelle, Engineering; Antonio Pedros-Gascon, Liberal Arts

Guests:

Absent: Katriana Popichak, Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (excused); Amy Barkley, Executive Assistant (excused); Janice Nerger, Interim Provost/Executive Vice President; Susan James, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs; Brad Goetz, Chair University Curriculum Committee

Chair Melinda Smith called the meeting to order at 3:06pm.

November 14, 2023 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS:

I. Minutes to be Approved

A. Executive Committee Minutes – October 31, 2023

Chair Smith: Asked if there were any corrections or changes to be made to the Executive Committee minutes from October 31st.

Hearing none, minutes approved as submitted.

II. Items Pending/Discussion Items

A. *Announcements*

1. The Next Executive Committee Meeting will be held on November 28, 2023 – Microsoft Teams – 3:00 p.m.
2. The Next Faculty Council meeting will be held on December 5, 2023 – Microsoft Teams – 4:00 p.m.

B. *Old Business*

C. *Action Items*

1. UCC Minutes including CLMT subject code – September 22, 2023
2. UCC Minutes – October 27 & November 3, 2023

Chair Smith: Moved to place the September 22nd, October 27th, and November 3rd minutes on the Faculty Council agenda for December 5th.

Joseph DiVerdi: It doesn't seem that we have resolved some of the big questions regarding the CLMT climate change subject code. Wonder if it is appropriate to move forward, or if we have to do some more with this.

Chair Smith: It is whether you feel like it can stand debate.

DiVerdi: Clarified that we will debate it in Faculty Council.

Chair Smith: Yes, if people want to raise questions about it. My understanding is that Brad Goetz is going to provide rationale and additional justification. Think that we agreed that the justification he provided was that this is a subject code will be housed in the Provost's Office for now, and that it would be treated similarly to anything else that is under the Provost's Office.

DiVerdi: Wonder if it is in our best interest to defer that until specific cases were to develop.

Andrew Norton: Reading through the minutes, think that the process is to put it on the agenda, and it is up to the UCC to provide a rationale to get it through or not. Don't think that our debating is going to change that.

Chair Smith: Think that Goetz feels like he is in a good position now that he has talked to the right people, to come back to the Faculty Council with the rationale. We could also hold it until the next Executive Committee meeting and have Goetz come and talk to us further, it won't preclude it being in the December meeting.

DiVerdi: Not opposed to that, but also not opposed to having the debate at Faculty Council.

Chair Smith: Asked if there were any further comments. Hearing none, asked for a vote on the motion to place these on the Faculty Council agenda for December 5th.

Motion approved, will be placed on the Faculty Council agenda for December 5th.

3. Revised Fall 2026-Summer 2028 Calendar

DiVerdi: Moved to place the revised Fall 2026-Summer 2028 calendar on the Faculty Council agenda for December 5th. There is a small edit based on a change to registration.

Norton: Clarified that the change is to the withdrawal date, which was a Faculty Council action. The other edits include not putting in the orientation dates any longer and adding Juneteenth as a holiday.

Chair Smith: Asked if there were any questions.

Antonio Pedros-Gascon: Second the motion.

Chair Smith: Asked for a vote.

Motion passed, will be placed on the Faculty Council agenda for December 5th.

D. Reports

1. Faculty Council Chair Report – Melinda Smith

Chair Smith: Noted that there will be a meeting with Joe Parker to follow up on the November 7th Faculty Council meeting as well as any questions that were not answered then. We will have a debrief about that at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Chair Smith: Noted the upcoming interviews for the Ombuds finalists.

Chair Smith: Also at the next Executive Committee meeting, we are going to hear more about the 9-month versus 12-month appointments from Vice Provost Sue James.

Chair Smith: Propose that we have a resolution thanking Interim Provost Jan Nerger, like we did for Interim President Rick Miranda.

Pedros-Gascon: Would like to confirm that Provost Nerger was not the person laughing when the discussion with Joe Parker was happening at the last Faculty Council meeting. If she was the person laughing in the room, then I would not feel comfortable with that.

Chair Smith: Do not know who was laughing, was dealing with and focused on Teams at that moment. Don't know if others who were in the room want to speak to that.

DiVerdi: Don't know what happened either.

Pedros-Gascon: There were multiple people who heard that and mentioned it in the chat. If it was her, I would feel uncomfortable with that.

Chair Smith: Acknowledge that, also saw that in the chat and received an email from a Faculty Council member. Unfortunately, was focused on Teams at the time and didn't notice.

DiVerdi: Asked if we can examine this by listening to the recording.

Jessica Watkinson: Confirmed that the recording is available.

DiVerdi: Asked if we can take a look at that part of the recording.

Watkinson: Agreed.

Martin: Agreed that if there was a laugh that was inappropriate, but think it is hard to prescribe intent. Know that some may make a sound when shocked that could be interpreted differently by a virtual audience. Suggested we proceed with caution in prescribing intent.

Norton: Agreed with Martin's point. Will say that I didn't get a sense that there was any joy or mirth in the room at the time.

2. Board of Governors Report – Andrew Norton

Norton: Noted a deadline this Thursday for presentation to the Board. If there is anything this group would like to bring to the Board's attention I can do so. This time last year was mostly about salary and compensation. Right now, will give an update on the budget presentations, Section K, and Section J.

Martin: Noted that APC passed Section J and K today. Richard Eykholt heard from OGC that it was approved. OGC has also provided the first round of edits for administrative leave. We are hopeful that we can tackle that piece in Spring.

3. Budget Model Report – Jennifer Martin, Rob Mitchell

Rob Mitchell: We've had increased participation and engagement. This week we have the last sets of sessions.

Martin: Think the engagement has been really high and have heard that any lack of engagement is not from a lack of interest but because faculty and staff are busy. Feedback won't stop after the sessions, opportunities to provide feedback to the process through the website will continue. Mitchell and I are making sure that feedback goes to the committees, and that we respond to questions.

Martin: Commented on some of the things we have seen from the open forums. Particularly, some of the strain for the administrative units, such as operations and facilities and how as campus grows those units, their budgets haven't grown that much. One of the things of note for the committees is how we need to be mindful of facilities and operations. If we are trying to grow our campus, we need to make sure that is proportional to resources that exist.

Martin: We received a lot of interest through the committee nomination process. Most folks were interested in the Steering Committee rather than the Technical Committee, which wasn't that surprising.

Mitchell: The Technical Committee needs to be a smaller committee anyway. There are 17-18 individuals on that which is still a large group.

Martin: Last week, the Executive Sponsor Committee met and identified who would be asked to serve on the committees. We are in the process right now of notifying those individuals who were identified. Think the Technical Committee was around 15-16 people, and the Steering Committee was around 24 people.

Mitchell: One thing to note is that we have student representatives. The graduate student representative will be on the Steering Committee and the undergraduate representative will be on the Technical Committee. The Technical Committee met yesterday for the first time and will have a few meetings before the Steering Committee meets so they can scrub the data and make sure the Steering Committee has the necessary information to be successful.

Martin: Now that we are wrapping up the campus facing sessions this week, the committees will really begin their work. Moving forward, the Steering Committee will provide updates to the campus at large. We will also be working on a glossary, so that the committees and campus are all using the same language. We will also be taking some of the feedback that we've received and addressing it in FAQs.

Norton: Understand that the Steering and Technical Committees will exist into the future, so there will be an opportunity for faculty to participate in that process.

Martin: Yes, something we have heard from other institutions is that they disbanded those committees after the shadow budget year started and then it was hard to make tweaks as necessary. We've learned to make sure that there is an organized structure that feedback can be directed toward, and changes can be made at least until full implementation. Shared governance is represented on the committees through the Chairs of APC, CPC, and Faculty Council.

Mitchell: Noted that continued participation is critical, which we've communicated to the committees. It is going to be a continued conversation over time. Note that we have great budget officers across campus who are very willing to participate and engage.

E. Discussion Items

1. Finalize University Grievance Officer Survey – Christine Pawliuk

Chair Smith: Pawliuk could not make it, we will return to this item at the November 28th meeting.

F. Executive Session

Executive Committee moved to Executive Session to discuss the topic of personnel.

Executive Committee adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Melinda Smith, Chair
 Joseph DiVerdi, Vice Chair
 Andrew Norton, BOG Representative
 Amy Barkley, Executive Assistant