

MINUTES

Executive Committee

Tuesday, October 22, 2024**3:00pm – Microsoft Teams/Administration 106**

Present: **Melinda Smith**, Chair; **Joseph DiVerdi**, Vice Chair; **Jennifer Martin**, BOG Representative; **Marion Underwood**, Provost/Executive Vice President; **Amy Barkley**, Executive Assistant; **Catie Cramer**, Agricultural Sciences; **Rob Mitchell**, Business; **Svetlana Olbina**, Health and Human Sciences; **Antonio Pedros-Gascon**, Liberal Arts; **Christine Pawliuk**, Libraries; **Randall Boone**, Natural Resources; **Steve Benoit**, Natural Sciences; **Brian Geiss**, Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

Guests: **Brad Goetz**, Chair University Curriculum Committee; **Susan James**, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs; Lumina Albert, Principles of Community Task Force; Susana Munoz, Principles of Community Task Force

Absent: Sue Doe, Immediate Past Chair (excused); Peter Jan van Leeuwen, Engineering (excused)

Chair Melinda Smith called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

October 22, 2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS:**I. Minutes to be Approved****A. Faculty Council Minutes – October 1, 2024**

An Executive Committee member requested an edit to include a follow up question that was left out. Amy Barkley stated she would get it included.

Hearing no other edits or corrections, Faculty Council minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

B. Executive Committee Minutes – October 8, 2024

Hearing no edits or corrections, Executive Committee minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

II. Items Pending/Discussion Items**A. *Announcements***

1. The Next Executive Committee Meeting will be held on October 29, 2024 – Microsoft Teams/Administration 106 – 3:00 p.m.
2. The Next Faculty Council meeting will be held on November 5, 2024 – Microsoft Teams/Eddy 212 – 4:00 p.m.

3. Next Faculty Council Meet & Greet – Thursday, November 7 –
Lory Student Center Room 312 – 3:30pm-5:00pm

B. Provost/Executive Vice President Report – Provost Marion Underwood

Provost Marion Underwood: Gave updates on the recent leadership searches.

- Michael Galchinsky from Georgia State University has been hired as the new Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Affairs starting May 1st.
- The new Assistant Vice Provost for Advising and Student Success will be Lisa Dysleski, starting November 1st.
- The search is ongoing for the new Director for the School of Global and Environmental Sustainability (SoGES). [Feedback](#) on the three (3) finalists is due by October 28th.

Provost Underwood: The Provost's Office is also looking at academic program review to make the process stronger and more impactful. These program reviews are required by the Board of Governors. We are going to pause reviews this year so we can consider a process that is stronger and less laborious.

Provost Underwood: We are piloting some additions to the tenure and promotion process. Currently, when tenure and promotion cases leave the college, they come to the Provost's Office, where they are all read by the Provost prior to making a recommendation to the President. This year, we want to pilot a University Promotions Committee that would include the deans, be chaired by the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and include the Vice Provost for Undergraduate education, as well as a full professor from each college. The group would read the cases and send their recommendations. This would allow for faculty input at that stage in the process.

Provost Underwood: The Provost's Ethics Colloquium will from 9:00am to 11:00am on Tuesday, October 29th in the Lory Student Center. The topic will be mental health and higher education. We will have a keynote from Katie Rose Guest Priyal, as well as a panel of faculty leaders including Faculty Council Chair Melinda Smith, Executive Director of the Institute of Learning and Teaching (TILT) Sue Doe, and two (2) staff members, Justin Dove, who leads the Student Disability Center and Adam Sargent, Director of the Student Counseling Center.

An Executive Committee member asked for more information about the pilot program for the tenure and promotion process and what would happen if a tenure and promotion did not go the way a candidate wanted.

Provost Underwood: Clarified that it will be tried this year as a pilot. There is no language in the policy that excludes this, and our policies are silent on what happens to cases after they come to the Provost's Office. Not comfortable making those recommendations alone, and the University Promotions Committee would be an advisory committee. They would discuss cases and vote and would take those votes under advisement when considering recommendations to President Amy Parsons. We hope to pilot it this year for the tenure-track group and do continuing, contract, and adjunct faculty next year. We realize this is a fair amount of work, so am willing to consider some reasonable compensation for people who do this. Indicated that there is not likely to be a written recommendation from this committee, so not sure there would be an opportunity to

respond. Believe this has been discussed with Richard Eykholt in his role as the University Grievance Officer. The nature of this committee would be to provide advice to help inform the recommendation. People can respond to that if they would like to.

Vice Provost Susan James: Nothing is changing about how responses are done as stated in the Manual. Faculty can respond to any contrary recommendation at any level, and those are the official recommendations that go up to the President's level. This is an effort to bring more transparency and shared governance to the informal committees that have already been happening.

Executive Committee members expressed that it would be good to see non-tenure track faculty represented on this committee, as well as emphasizing that it is important to avoid single-person decisions with items as impactful as tenure and promotion. An Executive Committee member asked how many complicated cases are typically seen per year.

Provost Underwood: Can only speak to this year and last year, but about fourteen (14) to eighteen (18). The number would likely be similar with this new system. Believe people would be able to pick out similar issues, such as multiple negative external letters.

An Executive Committee member asked whether this process is being proposed for every case or just ones that warrant additional scrutiny.

Provost Underwood: We are hoping that the committee can read all the cases.

An Executive Committee member suggested informing those individuals going through the process of this information to assuage any fears. Provost Underwood thanked them for the suggestion.

Hearing no further comments or discussion, report was concluded.

C. Old Business

1. Faculty Council Procedures Handbook Updates

Discussion was tabled for October 29th Executive Committee meeting.

2. Executive Committee minutes & AI notetaking

An Executive Committee member requested that we move to the same methodology regarding minutes as for other standing committees in Executive Committee. It was also suggested that AI notetakers be prohibited from being used in Executive Committee meetings.

Barkley expressed concerns about removing the option of the AI notetaker, as many use them for accessibility purposes, and it may put us in the territory of denying accessibility tools. Barkley also noted that change in the minutes to be simpler and just the basics of the conversations had in

Executive Committee. An Executive Committee member stated that the minutes should just be for the resolutions, not the discussions.

An Executive Committee member expressed disagreement. Executive Committee works different from other committees because we are the committee that see all the work of the committees and approves items to be seen on Faculty Council. The member stated that it makes sense to have more detailed discussion noted and there is always the option to remove statements.

Executive Committee members discussed confidentiality and whether Faculty Council will have a say in what is decided for the procedures. Chair Smith indicated that these are just procedures, similar to other standing committee operating procedures, and Faculty Council and Executive Committee do not vote on those.

A motion was made to return to the current written policy in the Procedures Handbook and record minutes according to what is there. The motion was seconded.

Chair Smith requested a vote. The motion failed.

An Executive Committee member suggested placing this on the agenda for next week to allow time to write a motion to make a change in that specific section in the Procedures Manual. Executive Committee members expressed agreement. The discussion will be tabled until next week.

D. Action Items

1. Principles of Community Task Force Final Report

Chair Smith: Reminded members of the previous presentation from the task force in September. We received a summary and the outcome of that discussion was a request for a formal report that laid out specific recommendations and rationale. Asked if there was any questions or discussion.

An Executive Committee expressed a previous concern about potentially having this proposed standing committee be a checkbox versus charging committees and structures and campus at large to uphold these principles. The co-chairs expressed that this standing committee would be an effort to enhance the institutionalization of these principles and demonstrate commitment.

Executive Committee members discussed how this proposed committee would be operationalized. The co-chairs stated that this committee would work collaboratively with the other standing committees regarding issues around the Principles of Community.

Executive Committee members discussed the role of this committee, and members were reminded that Faculty Council engages with administration but is not an entity that enforces. Members discussed how this proposed committee would work so that it does not become an enforcement mechanism rather than an education mechanism. The co-chairs discussed what types of issues and topics they are hoping this committee will address.

Chair Smith discussed next steps for the report and what happens after it appears at Faculty Council. Executive Committee members decided to advance the report as a discussion item at the November Faculty Council meeting ahead of presenting a formal motion or report.

2. UCC Minutes – October 4 & 11, 2024

Chair Smith: Asked if there was any discussion or questions regarding the University Curriculum Committee minutes. Hearing none, requested a vote to place these on the Faculty Council agenda for November.

Motion passed. Will be placed on the Faculty Council agenda for November 5th.

3. New Graduate Degree Program: Master of Veterinary Clinical Care, Plan B – University Curriculum Committee – Brad Goetz, Chair

Brad Goetz: Moved that Executive Committee consider putting a new graduate degree program, Master of Veterinary Clinical Care, Plan B, on the Faculty Council agenda.

Executive Committee members discussed this new degree program and its relation to the ballot initiative and what would happen if the ballot initiative does not pass. An Executive Committee member indicated that there will still be opportunities for students to go through this degree program and work in veterinary medicine. It was stated that they would not necessarily have the state mandated Veterinary Research or Veterinary Associate career path, but this could enhance their careers and academic portfolios towards veterinary school.

Executive Committee members discussed delaying this item to the December Faculty Council meeting and whether it would be an issue for when they want to start offering the program.

Chair Smith asked for a vote to place this item on the November Faculty Council agenda.

Motion failed.

Another motion was made to place this item on the December Faculty Council agenda.

Motion passed. Will be placed on the Faculty Council agenda for December 3rd.

Goetz indicated that the motion would be updated to reflect a new effective date of Fall 2025 rather than Spring 2025.

4. New Graduate Degree Program: Master of Advanced Practice in Dietetics (MAPD), Plan C – University Curriculum Committee – Brad Goetz, Chair

Goetz: On behalf of the University Curriculum Committee, move that Executive Committee consider a new graduate degree program, Master of Advanced Practice in Dietetics, Plan C, for the Faculty Council meeting for November.

Chair Smith: Asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, requested a vote.

Motion passed. Will be placed on the Faculty Council agenda for November 5th.

5. Academic Faculty Representatives to University Policy Review Committee – Committee on Faculty Governance – Steve Reising, Chair

Chair Smith: Made the motion to place this ballot on the Faculty Council agenda for November. Hearing no discussion, requested a vote.

Motion passed. Will be placed on the Faculty Council agenda for November 5th.

6. TILT Annual Report 2023-2024

Chair Smith: Made the motion to place the TILT annual report on the Faculty Council agenda for November as a report to be received. Hearing no discussion, requested a vote.

Motion passed. Will be placed on the Faculty Council agenda for November 5th as a report.

E. Reports

1. Faculty Council Chair Report – Melinda Smith

No report at this time.

2. Board of Governors Report – Jennifer Martin

Jennifer Martin: Working on scheduling Board of Governors members to participate in Faculty Council. We have one (1) confirmed for spring.

Chair Smith: Stated that the idea is to put them as a separate item to allow for introductions and some engagement with them.

Executive Committee members discussed the reports and upcoming items for the November and December Faculty Council meetings.

F. Discussion Items

G. Executive Session

Chair Smith: Requested a motion to go into Executive Session.

An Executive Committee member made a motion to enter Executive Session. The motion was seconded, and approved.

1. Discussion regarding [Faculty Council Resolution Regarding Budget Priorities](#)

Executive Committee members discussed the resolution and potential next steps.

Executive Committee adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Executive Session adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Melinda Smith, Chair
Joseph DiVerdi, Vice Chair
Jennifer Martin, BOG Representative
Amy Barkley, Executive Assistant