

MINUTES
Executive Committee
Tuesday, November 11, 2025
3:00pm – Microsoft Teams/Administration 106

Present: Melinda Smith, Chair; Andrew Norton, Vice Chair; Jennifer Martin, BOG Representative; Sue Doe, Immediate Past Chair; Amy Barkley, Executive Assistant; Stephen Coleman, Agricultural Sciences; Gina Slejko, Business; Peter Jan van Leeuwen, Engineering; Svetlana Olbina, Health and Human Sciences; Antonio Pedros-Gascon, Liberal Arts; Linda Meyer, Libraries; David Koons, Natural Resources; Steve Benoit, Natural Sciences; Zaid Abdo, Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

Guests: Susan James, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs; Brad Goetz, Chair University Curriculum Committee; Kimberly Miloch, Provost Chief of Staff; Mark Shelstad, Chair Committee on Responsibilities and Standing of Academic Faculty; Sarah Gutierrez, Assistant Director of Student Conduct Services; Ryan Brooks, Chair Committee on Non-Tenure Track Faculty

Absent: Marion Underwood, Provost/Executive Vice President (excused)

Chair Melinda Smith called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

November 11, 2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS:

I. Minutes to be Approved

1. Executive Committee Minutes – October 28, 2025

Hearing no suggested edits, the Executive Committee minutes from October 28th were approved.

II. Items Pending/Discussion Items

A. *Announcements*

1. The Next Executive Committee Meeting will be held on November 18, 2025 – Microsoft Teams/Administration 106 – 3:00 p.m.
2. The Next Faculty Council meeting will be held on December 2, 2025 – Microsoft Teams/Location TBD – 4:00 p.m.

Chair Smith: An invitation has gone out for the Academic Freedom forum for Faculty Council members. That will be taking place on December 2 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Lory Student Center Room 386. The Faculty Council meeting room will be in Lory Student Center Room 376-378 following the forum.

3. Next Faculty Council Open Office Hours – December 3, 2025 – Administration 315 – 10:30am-11:30am

4. Next Employee Council Q&A Session – December 11, 2025 – Lory Student Center Room 312/Microsoft Teams – 10:30am-12:00pm

B. Provost/Executive Vice President Report – Vice Provost Susan James

Vice Provost Susan James: Provost Marion Underwood is at the APLU meeting. We requested that while at that meeting that she gather information on what other universities are doing about tenure and if they are considering things such as the COVID impact statements that were done a few years ago. This is an ongoing discussion with the promotion and tenure working group.

An Executive Committee member asked whether the Office of General Counsel has the authority to enforce or demand enforcement of policies on campus.

Vice Provost James: Indicated that the understanding is that the job of the Office of General Counsel is to be general counsel for the CSU System and not necessarily the enforcement of policies. The understanding is that they are advisory.

The Executive Committee member stated that this seems to be contradictory to the events that occurred in October. The member requested that Vice Provost James follow up on who was responsible for the enforcement of the Free Speech policy during last month's events.

C. Old Business

D. Action Items

1. UCC Minutes – October 24 & 31, 2025

Hearing no questions or discussion, a motion was made to place the University Curriculum Committee on the Faculty Council agenda. Chair Smith requested a vote.

Motion passed. Will be placed on the Faculty Council agenda for December 2nd as consent agenda.

2. Proposed Revisions to Section E.5.3 of the Academic Faculty and Administrative Professional Manual – Committee on Responsibilities and Standing of Academic Faculty – Mark Shelstad, Chair

Mark Shelstad: These revisions came as a result of the outside groups holding events at the stadium this past fall and the realization that there was not much guidance for faculty in moving classes online or in other formats. The revision gives faculty a bit more discretion when there is a need or opportunity to move classes, as well as how this should be communicated to supervisors.

Vice Provost James: Clarified that the language does not mean that faculty can unilaterally decide whether they will teach in person or online but that classes can be moved online or cancelled due to events such as football games. Believe the Provost will be supportive.

Executive Committee members discussed the revisions. A suggestion was made to remove the statement regarding “extenuating circumstances” so confusion would not occur over what qualified as an extenuating circumstance. Members discussed modality of classes and the thresholds involved, as well as whether the updated language would cause concerns around those items. Additional discussion centered around what qualified as extenuating circumstances and how this process is indicated in the codes of departments. Executive Committee members suggested referencing “departmental policy” rather than codes in case the structure of departmental codes change in the future.

Hearing no further questions or discussion, a motion was made to place the amended proposed revisions on the Faculty Council agenda. Chair Smith requested a vote.

Motion passed as amended. Will be placed on the Faculty Council agenda for December 2nd.

E. Reports

1. Faculty Council Chair Report – Melinda Smith

Chair Smith: There are a few updates:

- The AUCC task force has its first meeting scheduled. Everyone that we invited agreed to be on it.
- Working with Vice Provost Michael Galchinsky to draft a charge and membership for the task force on program and curricular approval, suspension, and discontinuance processes.
- Work is being done on a potential task force on AI. Concerns were brought forward from Sue Doe and Joseph Brown in TILT and the need to consider this from a student and faculty perspective.

Executive Committee members discussed conversations that had occurred around the Free Speech policy, as well as a meeting that took place between Chair Smith and Assistant Vice President Marc Barker. Executive Committee members discussed accountability regarding this issue and potential next steps to take, including a potential memo. Additional discussion included what the ultimate goal of this request would be and concerns were expressed over the broken trust with administration and how to move forward. It was noted that the ASCSU resolution was approved by that body and could potentially move forward for formal endorsement by Faculty Council in December.

2. Board of Governors Report – Jennifer Martin

Jennifer Martin: Working on drafting the Board of Governors Representative report for the December Board of Governors meetings, which includes feedback regarding issues at top of mind for the Administrative Professional Council and the Classified Personnel Council.

Martin: There was a discussion at the October Board of Governors meeting about the renovations for the medical school and the nursing and physical therapy program. There have been a few conversations with Dean Susan VandeWoude from the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, as well as faculty leaders in the School of Medicine and associated departments. Will be meeting with faculty to hear their feedback tomorrow.

Martin: Encouraged members to reach out with any concerns or issues they wish to have elevated to the Board of Governors. Indicated that she will also be meeting with Ben Gregg later this week to discuss what happened from his perspective.

F. Discussion Items

1. Update from the Student Resolution Center – Sarah Gutierrez, Assistant Director of Student Conduct Services

Sarah Gutierrez: The hope for this presentation is to introduce faculty to the Student Resolution Center, as there is some lingering language that references different names. Would like to discuss how we handle academic misconduct reports, as well as what the Student Resolution Center can offer and why we want faculty to report. There will also be links and QR codes for resources to help support faculty.

Chair Smith: Indicated that we will also be hearing from Vice President Blanche Hughes and will pair this presentation with that, since the Student Resolution Center is under Student Affairs.

An Executive Committee member suggested including the entire slide deck in the agenda packet so faculty have the information. Gutierrez indicated that was the plan, but the actual presentation slide deck will be pared down to fit the time constraints within the meeting.

2. Free Speech Policy Task Force

Executive Committee members discussed the proposed charge and membership for the task force on the Free Speech policy. Members expressed concerns around including tackling chalking as part of the task force's charge.

Following discussion, Vice Chair Andrew Norton will edit the charge as needed.

3. Statement of Support for Eliminating both Departmental and College Codes

Executive Committee members discussed the proposal to move away from departmental codes and use departmental handbooks instead. Concerns were raised regarding the process for approval of codes versus handbooks and what oversight there would be for potential changes.

Following discussion, it was determined that Faculty Council would receive the suggestions from the deans to move to handbooks as a report and a formal forum would be planned for more in-depth discussion.

A motion was made and seconded to enter Executive Session. Chair Smith requested a vote.

Motion passed. Executive Committee entered Executive Session.

G. Executive Session

Executive Committee adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Executive Session concluded at 5:31 p.m.

Melinda Smith, Chair
Andrew Norton, Vice Chair
Jennifer Martin, BOG Representative
Amy Barkley, Executive Assistant