

Minutes
22 February 2022
4:00 PM
University Faculty Senate
Shawnee State University

1. Call to Order

UFS President Tony Ward called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. This meeting was held via Collaborate.

2. Roll Taking

Secretary Sarah Ivers recorded the attendance (as follows):

Adam Miller, Bastien LeCouffe, Eugene Burns, Thomas Piontek, Georgeann Kamer, Thomas Bunting, Keijing Liu, Ryan Walker, Ruby Gray, Sarah Clausing, Barbara Warnock, Janet Feight, Jon Bedick, Phil Blau, Mikel Stone, and officers (Tony Ward, Erik Larson, James Reneau, and Sarah Ivers).

Drew Feight was absent (on sabbatical).

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes seconded by Thomas Piontek. Approved unanimously.

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion to accept the agenda was seconded by Jon Bedick. Approved unanimously.

5. Announcements and Remarks from the Senate President Tony Ward

- Want to start by mentioning a few items related to J1. There have now been meetings between members of the Administration, Staff, and Faculty (Provost Ahuja, Deans, Tami Sheets, etc.) to determine what changes need to be made and at what pace. Tami is meeting with the Chairs one on one to get the advising worksheets corrected for the majors before advising begins.
- Secondly, the UFS Executive Committee met with Provost Ahuja and President Bauer earlier this afternoon to discuss issues of concern. I hope that these meetings can continue.
- Midterm grades must be submitted by March 8th, not by the date listed on the email/documents.
- There is now an active Course Search feature that is accessible to everyone on MySSU even if you do no sign in. It is easier to navigate.

6. Treasurer's Report: Jim Reneau

No expenses for the year. Motion to second by Thomas Bunting. Passed unanimously.

7. Administration Reports:

Jeff Bauer, President;

- General Comments: Based on comments made last meeting, I think there is clearly a need for us in the administration to be more forthcoming and communicative when it comes to issues happening on campus. Sometimes we get too involved with the everyday and don't realize that there are people out there, especially faculty, who want to know a lot of the financial details of

the institution. I understand that there are considerable problems dealing with classroom conditions and advising (especially J1). I just want to let you know I'm thankful for the exceptional service faculty are providing in this once-in-a-century, once-in-a-lifetime crisis.

- Financial: President Bauer shared the financial presentation from a recent Board Meeting and explained challenges associated with budget projections and the current financial status of the institution. These PowerPoints are available on the Board of Trustee website. Overall, there is a substantial deficit that the institution needs to deal with.

Financial Highlights:

- *Online programs have generated a little over \$1M in tuition and fees*
 - *Predicted \$29M in tuition and other revenue, will be coming close to just over \$26M (still experiencing effects of the enrollment decline/pandemic)*
 - *Currently there is a \$3.28M deficit, which should be cut down as we move into the latter portion of the fiscal year, but even so – there will likely be a deficit between \$2 and \$3M.*
 - *We did not spend as much scholarship money as normal, due to lower enrollment and fewer qualified students*
 - *Expenses this year (salaries and benefits) are projected to run \$33M, likely to come in a little underbudget in this area*
 - *some of these expenses include the wi-fi upgrades on campus (\$1M+)*
 - *Next fiscal year, we will not have the Federal money that is available to us now, we will need to increase enrollment to meet the budget needs.*
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- Senate Bill 6 Ratio: Our Senate Bill 6 ratio dropped very low level a couple of years ago and we were at least at some risk of dropping to a level where we would have been placed on fiscal watch. Over the last year-and-a-half we've been able to replenish our reserve account to \$8.5 million (a \$1.6M increase). This puts us in good shape for the next few years at least.
 - J1 Implementation: Some faculty are extremely frustrated/discontent. I want to reiterate the reasons why we made this move now. We had to move from to another software because Jenzabar was no longer supporting the CARS product. J1 is the upgrade we chose because it was less expensive, and we assumed transition from one Jenzabar product to another would be easier. We have had hard software transitions in the past. When we ran the test run on J1, there seemed to be few issues. This should have been a clue that there were going to be many issues once it was implemented! It might have been better to have pushed back the opening by 6 months. I (President Bauer) made the decision to move forward with the timing and 6 months might have been the better choice.
 - Pandemic and Enrollment: The pandemic has caused two very difficult enrollment years for the institution. Let me remind you once again, from a position of great optimism, that we had record years in our freshmen and transfer numbers fall of 2019 we were well on our way to another record year in the fall of 20 when we were shut down. The reason we expect continued growth is because we do great things in the classroom here and students and their families like what we do. For non-traditional students, we began the process of offering both graduate programs and online programs. This is going to be our model for the future. We're making good progress with our current strategic plan. I don't have any reason to believe that we won't be on the growth trajectory very soon.
 - Pandemic Protocols: We were the first Ohio state university to decide to move online in March of 2020, but most state universities mandated vaccination and we did not. We have been

masking now for over two years with some success. We will likely not keep the masking protocols in place through the end of the semester because of the loss of students this semester, especially residential students, due to a lack of normal campus routines. It's important to provide and let enrolling students know that we will be returning to a normal campus environment. This will help us convince our cohort of prospective freshman students that Shawnee is back and can deliver those special educational experiences that make us unique. We are reviewing current trends/cases and planning for a relaxation of some, if not all, of our health measures following spring break. Last week we had 17 active covid cases (on a 10-day quarantine). There were 2 residential students, 11 commuter students, and 4 faculty and staff. New cases during the week have decreased from 4 weeks ago at 100 to 39 to 21 last week. This week, we are at 10. A vaccine is readily available on campus, we have therapeutics available at local hospitals, and a population that survives the disease very well with few exceptions. 75% of our faculty and staff are vaccinated, 64% of our students are, and 97% of residential students are now vaccinated. The CDC will be altering its recommendations soon. I've been in constant contact with local Health Department and understand that easing of restrictions should follow local conditions more than Regional and National trends. If we continue to see declining covid numbers through spring break and our return testing shows little or no activity, I fully expect that our mitigation efforts can be lifted safely soon thereafter. This doesn't mean that we will stop encouraging masking and provide masks for those most vulnerable, but we are approaching the time to move on. I understand that there are contractual issues in question, and we will continue to keep communication open with SEA to make sure that we don't violate any of those contractual arrangements. If anyone has any questions, please ask, or forward them to Tony so that he can collect and share them.

- *Question (Sarah Ivers): Regarding if students who wish to remain masked will be made comfortable doing so. Response (President Bauer): We will continue to provide masks for anyone who feels uncomfortable as we begin lifting the protocols.*

Sunil Ahuja, Provost

- The School of Business will be renamed to the C. H. Lute School of Business. It will be the first area of campus that is named about a prominent community member who actively supports the institution. We will begin to roll out opening signs and things like that so you will get to hear more about this. The School of Business is my number one top priority among other major programmatic and academic moves.
- Commencement: The Chancellor has agreed to give the commencement address on April 30th. We are planning for an outdoor ceremony. More information regarding the ceremony will be coming in the weeks after spring break.
- Textbook Adoption Policy: We are watching the timeline for this policy (which is required by the state) and monitoring how other institutions are handling the policy language. This will be discussed further at the March Provost meeting. Ideally, the goal is to get this through governance for an August adoption.
- J1 Update: Items on the list are being address in weekly meetings and individual meetings with the Chairs and the Registrar. The goal is to have all these issues fixed by the end of the semester and to have certain ones related to advising and registration fixed in mid-March. Dean Jennifer Pauley provided details regarding this update:
 - *Since the last UFS meeting, the focus has mainly been on correcting advising worksheets that faculty use during advising. Tammy scheduled 2-hour meetings with Department*

Chairs and the School Directors. She gathered the institutional requirement trees for those areas and sent them to the leaders making changes. The requirement trees were essential because they impact information that populates the advising worksheets. The Department Chairs and School Directors reviewed the trees and came into the meetings prepared with the changes that needed to be made. Meetings have happened in the following areas: Allied Health Sciences, Rehabilitation Sciences, Nursing, Natural Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, English and Humanities, and Social Sciences. In most cases Tami was able to make the changes for the majors and minors during the meetings for four catalog years (2018 – 2021). That is a tremendous amount of progress for each area. Meetings will soon take place in Education, Business, Engineering, and Fine, Digital, and Performing Arts.

- *Next, students need to be aligned with their proper advising worksheets. This is underway.*
- *ITS has also added a link to the Course Search feature on MySSU that can be accessed without logging in. A link on the main website will be added soon to allow prospective students to view course offerings.*

8. Announcements from the Senate Floor

None

9. Committee and Director Reports

Erik Larson (OFC Update) – Report Included:

OFC Report to UFS on 2/21/2022

OFC had a meeting on February 11, 2022.

I'd like to share the highlights of our past meeting:

We were joined by the following guests at our meeting:

- Anna Babel – OSU
- Kay Halasek – OSU
- Yolanda Zepeda – OSU

We learned that ODHE Chancellor Randy Gardner will likely be joining us at our March meeting.

We also discussed and learned more about DACA and undocumented students from some guests from OSU.

OFC and OFS will be signing a joint resolution on divisive concepts today to be entered as testimony this week or next to HB 327 – let me know if you want to see a copy of the resolution. Current discussions in Columbus make it seem that there will be a vote on HB 327 in committee on March 2, 2022 and there is indication that they are planning for a vote in the house later the same day. In my reading of the current bill a lot of the punitive measures for higher education have been removed (e.g. no withholding of funding, no impacts on tenure), but ODHE will have to develop policies to enforce that we aren't teaching divisive concepts. The K-12 part of the bill mostly remains in-tact.

This concludes my report to UFS on OFC's recent meetings.

10. Unfinished Business

None

11. New Business

All course and program proposals 1 through 33 were proposed to be bundled. Phil Blau motioned to bundle. Thomas Bunting seconded the motion for bundling and it was approved unanimously. Janet Feight motioned to approve the bundled items; this was seconded by Jim Reneau. The approval of the bundle items passed unanimously.

12. Adjournment

Second to Adjourn from Thomas Piontek. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned.