

Minutes
25 November 2024
4:00 PM
University Faculty Senate
Shawnee State University

1. Call to Order

UFS President Mariah Woodward called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

2. Roll Taking

The attendance was recorded as follows:

Ryan Powell, Sandi Allen, Paul Madden, Jen Scott, Ruby Gray, Andy Napper, Phil Blau, Bastien LeCouffe, Thomas Bunting, Ryan Walker, Karen Koehler, Mikel Stone, Thomas Piontek and officers (Sarah Ivers, Dovel Myers, Drew Feight, Mariah Woodward)

Absent: Sarah Clausing, JT Ok, Andrea Zaph, Jim Reneau

3. Approval of Minutes

No changes requested, seconded by Sandi Allen. Approved unanimously.

4. Approval of Agenda

Seconded by Jen Scott. Approved unanimously.

5. Announcements and Remarks from the Senate President Mariah Woodward

- Anticipating some additional constitutional amendments (see following discussion)
- Welcomed Karen Koehler as Grad Council to UFS Meetings

6. Treasurer's Report: Jim Reneau (Absent)

No Report.

7. Administrative Reports:

Eric Braun, President – Absent (No Report)

Kimberly Inman, Interim Provost –

- **Dr. Mark Mirabello** – acknowledged passing and shared information about planned service
 - Dr. Mirabello began at SSU in 1987 as Instructor, promoted to Professor in 2005, served 37 years, recognized as Faculty Emeritus in 2023 by Board of Trustees.
- Board of Trustees officially appointed **Jeff Hamilton as Interim Dean of Students.**
- **Dr. Jodi Blinco** – named as Interim Chief Enrollment Officer – embedded from collaboration with Education Dynamics (see following discussion). She has expertise in targeted marketing and enrollment strategies
- **Celebration of Scholarship:** will be held the week of March 31st in 2025
 - webpage is updated with some minor adjustments remaining
 - asks that Faculty encourage student participation
 - will coincide with the student art show in the Spring semester

- **Strategic Action Plan** – Has been started in all 3 colleges, each college has been asked to develop an strategy with actionable goals by January 31st.
 - Focus: retention, enrollment, completion, and then career placement and internships
- **Academic Portfolio Review Process**
 - ARMC minutes have been shared to a common SharePoint site as requested.
 - Programs on list for discontinuation list include 5 four-year programs, 1 associate program and 1 concentration with an English program (plus minors and certificates)
 - Currently, there are 24 students in these programs.
 - Requested that faculty be considerate with students in these teach-out positions.
 - Provost did submit Environmental Engineering for discontinuation via Curriculog, since Faculty in this department did not respond by deadline. All other programs were discussed and decisions made within departments.
 - Provost acknowledged that many programs (including those listed) have been in need of targeted marketing to address enrollment issues.
- **Education Dynamics** – New Partnership with SSU
 - company staff have communicated with several people on SSU's campus
 - **Dr. Jodi Blinco - VP of Education Dynamics**
 - from outside of Oxford (Ohio native)
 - goals:
 - develop a brand strategy
 - bring in 1,000 students in Fall of 2025 (all types combined)
 - once strategy has been tested, SSU will take over moving forward
- **Jim Famer** – named Director of Admissions
- **Jeremy Reed** – named Director of Communications
- Discussions (with Faculty and Provost)
 - *Metrics for Low Enrolled Programs:*
 - Drew Feight – Who established the 20-student threshold for low enrolled programs and when?
 - Answer: UFS – several years ago during peak enrollment
 - If we keep the threshold as it stands (at least 20 graduates for 4-year program), it no longer reflects the actual enrollment numbers across campus. Enrollment numbers at present may represent the new normal – meaning the threshold metric should be lowered.
 - Provost Inman – Do need to consider how programmatic operations will be managed with consistently low enrollment by considering course offerings, class sizes, and overall benefit/absence of benefits for students.
 - 20 is the lowest threshold (comparing with other campuses)
 - Miami University (provided as example) – canceled all programs with fewer than 30 students and are monitoring all programs with fewer than 50 students.
 - Andy Napper – Not sure that there was a good rationale for selecting threshold in the past. Asked if all metrics were considered and not just enrollment numbers.
 - Provost Inman – Enrollment trends were also considered at the program, department, and college levels.
 - “Big take-away” – we have a lot of decline in enrollment.

- Might be possible to support more improvement plans for programs in the future.
- When faculty review programs, they need to discuss/consider/recommend how to support lower enrolled programs in the future with the intentions of a holistic approach.
- Andy Napper – ARMC went passed the scope of the governance document when they made decisions to list programs for discontinuation.
 - Our headcount has declined 30% between Fall of 2016 and Fall of 2022. A low enrollment metric of 14 is equivalent to the 20 selected years ago.
- Provost Inman – UFS may choose to review this, it established the metrics followed.
 - *Per ODHE, Administration can establish this number (but SSU's is currently using what was established by UFS)*
 - The goal is not to stay where we are, the goal is to grow.
- Drew Feight – Is this information reported outside of SSU and to whom? Is it not possible to change the number?
- Provost Inman – per SSU and ODHE metrics → $20 + 20\% = 24$ as threshold
 - Need Board of Trustees to comment on any recommendations for action to follow up on discontinuation plans (of all types). Provost has and will continue asking for Faculty feedback and recommendations to share with Board of Trustees.
- *Andy Napper – Is it correct that there are no CAS members on the ARMC committee?*
- *Provost Inman – Correct. The make-up of the committee is as she inherited it.*
- *Drew Feight – This can be changed.*
- Andy Napper – Who pays for the embedded Education Dynamics staff and services?
 - Provost Inman – Development Foundation (~ \$1M for year)
 - *their yield (income?) is based on enrollment, not interest*
- Faculty – Is there some way to hold them to what is promised prior to financial payout?
 - Provost Inman – Unknown. We are not paying Dr. Blinco this entire sum as salary – the funds cover several things.

Jennifer Pauley, Associate Provost – Absent (No Report)

8. Announcements from the Senate Floor

None

9. Committee and Director Reports

- OFC meeting was not attended by SSU Faculty last month.
 - Minutes should be available to President Woodward soon.
- UFS Constitution and Bylaws vote results – passed in favor of changes, but vote count was very close.

- Andy Napper motioned to make an UFS ad hoc committee to address constitution and bylaw concerns. Thomas Piontek seconded motion, but discussion followed:
 - Should this committee also address ARMC concerns mentioned above?
 - Should ARMC policies be included in shared governance documents?
 - No = Two can be addressed by ad hoc committee, but are separate issues.
- Drew Feight adjusts and makes new motion to amend the ad hoc committee's responsibility to include Constitution, Bylaws, and ARMC structure and policies.
- Motion passes. All vote in favor. See email for call for committee nominations.
- Given above, President Woodward elected to hold off on calling for Faculty to serve on open committee positions (especially Senators, as these may change).

10. Unfinished Business

None

11. New Business

- Senators indicated a preference for continued listings of all proposals on UFS Agendas.
- Phil Blau motioned to Bundle all items. Thomas Piontek seconded. Approved unanimously – all voting in favor of proposed bundle. Drew Feight motioned to pass the bundle; this was seconded by Ryan Powell. Bundle passed unanimously.

12. Adjournment

- Ryan Powell motioned for adjournment. Seconded by Jen Scott. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned.