

Minutes
30 September 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, Ryan Walker, Phil Blau, Bastien LeCouffe, Thomas Bunting, Sarah Clausing, JT Ok, Thomas Piontek and officers (Jim Reneau, Drew Feight, Mariah Woodward)

Absent: Sarah Ivers, Dovel Myers, Andrea Zaph, Mikel Stone

3. Approval of Minutes

No changes requested, seconded by Jen Scott. Approved unanimously.

4. Approval of Agenda

Seconded by Sandi Allen. Approved unanimously.

5. Announcements and Remarks from the Senate President Mariah Woodward

- Welcome to new members:
 - Ryan Powell – CAS Faculty at Large
 - Paul Madden – School of Education
 - JT Ok – Engineering Technologies
- The Executive Committee has been working on the Constitution – will be discussed later in the meeting.
- Still in need of a Chair for the Celebration of Scholarship Committee.
- There are open seats on the Honors, Distinguished Lecture Series, GEAC, and Research and Scholarly Affairs Committees that need filled. Requested that senators communicate these needs to their respective departments.
 - Encouraged those not serving to consider serving (many people are serving in multiple roles; the workload needs to be more widely distributed).

6. Treasurer's Report: Jim Reneau

No change or spending last year, university reabsorbed balance. Have a new balance of \$300 this year, also unspent. Motioned for approval by Phil Blau, seconded by Sarah Clausing. Passed unanimously.

7. Administrative Reports:

Eric Braun, President –

- Discussed impact of the hurricane and weather events and campus recovery.
- Acknowledged those who have stepped into Interim positions since the last academic year.

- Acknowledged the work of the Reorganization and Realignment Committee, Chaired by Tony Ward over the summer.
 - UFS Ex. Committee has been involved with adjusting to recommendations.
- **Strategic Action Planning:**
 - Wants to heavily modify the strategic plan to transition to short term action plans that can address immediate needs and opportunities.
 - Want to shift from top-down decisions to drive planning at the programming level. Administrative teams will be meeting to work on this, Dean's will also be working with this in their respective colleges.
 - **Reality for all Regional Universities:** enrollment is down, state funding is down, and there are structural deficits across all universities – however, we are in a strong position relative to some other campuses because of preparations and changes made over the recent academic transition
 - will be a process of continual improvement, but we can move away from budget planning and start focusing on programming more
 - reallocation of resources is where the focus needs to be
- **Fall Enrollment:**
 - New student numbers are “very disappointing”
 - Not sustainable, not okay. Will be conducting a national search for a Chief Enrollment Officer and a Chief Marketing Officer. Both will be new cabinet level positions.
 - Seeking a forgivable loan to pay for this initiative to avoid impact on operating budget.
 - Retention is up near record levels.

Kimberly Inman, Interim Provost –

- Acknowledged (appreciation for) faculty flexibility with dealing with students impacted by the hurricane.
- **BoT Resolution for Academic Portfolio Review and Status:**
 - Reasons: Report due to ODHE next fall about low enrolled programs and duplicative programs *and* Mid-cycle Review with HLC contained key concerns that required this review be conducted to make sure that all program goals are aligned with strategic action plans
 - using metrics established in 2017
 - timeline for program closures established in 2021
 - weekly meetings with the team to work through concerns
 - would like to prepare more succinct/transparent documentation to share with departments regarding programs that meet the discontinuation criteria
 - is happy to take questions as faculty have them

Jennifer Pauley, Associate Provost –

- Completion:
 - Previous: 34.4% Bachelor's degree in 6-year period
 - Spring 2024: 40.9% (up)
- Retention:
 - Previous: 65% - 70% (moved)
 - This year: 72% retention (very pleased with this number)

- Still working on the task force this fall, continuing to trying to intervene with those that are lost between spring and fall.
 - Asked Faculty to keep submitting early alerts so that these can be addressed.
 - Two Success Coaches are in the SSC this year – students can request meetings via MySSU with the coaches.
 - Also, an option to request tutoring this way.
- **Implementation of Retention AI Tool:**
 - Will communicate with students every 4 – 7 days to remind students about resources, etc. – in process
- **April 2024 UFS Meeting:**
 - Shared comments with Senate regarding Motion of Displeasure (please request specific wording if desired).
 - Seeks to maintain a positive relationship moving forward.

8. Announcements from the Senate Floor

None

9. Committee and Director Reports

- Mariah Woodward was unable to attend OFC (overlapped with a BoT meeting).
 - OFC had two speakers – one from IUC and a second sharing an Analysis of the Economic Impact and Return on Investments of Education in Ohio Public Institutions.
- UFS Constitution Update (Drew Feight):
 - Executive Committee worked over the summer to amend document for review. Did not follow all recommendations directly. Biggest goal was to ensure balance across colleges on Executive Committee and senate body.
 - Add Grad Council Chair to reflect growing significance of graduate programs and resolve some communication issues from the past. They would receive a course release of 3 credit hours.
 - Add second University at Large Senator – to help ensure representation of all of the colleges on the Executive Committee.
 - Jim Reneau – At large senators each have to be distinct colleges (see voting criteria outlined in constitution).
 - *Feight later states that there will be 3 Senators at Large (unclear)*
 - Originally 3 hours of release time proposed for the secretary position.
 - Alternative Chair Assignments when Standing Chairs need to be absent (see below).
 - Then met with Provost to discuss proposed changes.
 - Additional changes made during this meeting:
 - Typos/Missing college names – corrected
 - Additional language about committee addition (see above) – needs to be someone already serving on the committee, cannot be an outside member
 - *Drew Feight motioned to approve this amendment. Seconded by Phil Blau. Approved unanimously.*
 - Reduction of proposed secretary release from 3 credit hours to 2 hours (1 per semester)

- *Drew Feight motioned to approve this amendment.
Seconded by Thomas Piontek. Approved unanimously.*
- Drew Feight motioned to approve that the amended UFS constitution be placed on the ballot for full faculty consideration. Seconded by Sarah Clausing. Approved unanimously.

10. Unfinished Business

None

11. New Business

- Thomas Piontek motioned to Bundle all items. Thomas Bunting seconded. Approved unanimously – all voting in favor of proposed bundle. Drew Feight motioned to pass the bundle, this was seconded by Thomas Bunting. Bundle passed unanimously.

12. Adjournment

- Drew Feight motioned for adjournment. Seconded by Ruby Gray. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned.