

**Minutes**  
**24 April 2023**  
**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**

Secretary Sarah Ivers recorded the attendance as follows:

Thomas Piontek, Gene Burns, Thomas Bunting, Mikel Stone, Jennifer Scott, Ruby Gray, Andy Napper, Sarah Clausing, Phil Blau, Ryan Walker, Adam Miller, Sandra Beam, and officers (Jim Reneau, Dovel Myers, Mariah Woodward, and Sarah Ivers)

Absent: Sandi Allen, Bastien LeCouffe, and Drew Feight

**3. Approval of Minutes**

No changes requested, seconded by Thomas Piontek. Approved unanimously.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

Amended to include 11.1 presentation by Chip Poirot. Motioned for approval of amended agenda by Thomas Bunting, seconded by Gene Burns. Approved unanimously.

**5. Announcements and Remarks from the Senate President Mariah Woodward**

Shared main points from meeting with upper administration body regarding low morale, reorganization rumors, concerns related to shared governance not being properly followed, lack of authentic dialogue, SB 83 status, and campus wide communication issues

**6. Treasurer's Report: Jim Reneau**

No change. Seconded for approval by Sarah Clausing. Passed unanimously.

**7. Administrative Reports:**

**Jeff Bauer, President –**

○ **General Comments:**

- Last Meeting
- Campus community and overall University is dealing with many issues from many directions, emphasized the need to make changes

**Eric Braun, Interim President –**

○ **General Comments:**

- BOT authorized contract for 1 year as interim president (2<sup>nd</sup> resolution to passed previous week)
- discussed prior meeting the UFS executive committee
- expressed an open invitation to all senators and faculty for discussions regarding concerns, etc. across campus

- “We are going to balance the budget and it is going to happen next year.”
- need to continue to work on enrollment, but not in the same way as before
- “We need relief, looking forward to finding ways to do this in a positive way.”

**Sunil Ahuja, Provost –**

- **General Comments:**
  - Barry Lucas will become president of SEA
- **Reorganization of Academia** - partially related to HB151, HB83 companion bills
  - appears as if a portion of HB83 will pass, namely the areas regarding:
    - *faculty workload*
    - *annual evaluations (in conversation with SEA about this and deadline for implementation)*
    - *post tenure review processes*
    - *posting of syllabi online*
  - Administrative Chairs: concerns over annual evaluations: unclear who would be able to implement them, bargaining unit members cannot evaluate each other → triggered the discussion related to moving towards widespread use of Administrative Chairpersons.
    - Chairs: would still be able to teach half time, evaluations would increase workload, would look for ways to reduce this
    - if likelihood of this change is strong, will communicate with UFS and SEA
- **Right Size Organizational Structure** – is a campus goal
  - a review of the budget and academic portfolio is being conducted
    - looking at programmatic synergies and program growth
  - campus was built for 4800 students, have approximately 3200 currently (2500- 2600 of which are full time)
  - goal is to address costs
- Expected deficit of \$1.5 M at end of year
- “No program eliminations at issue here” – last year, some programs were dropped following protocol of ODHE
  - a systematic analysis of low enrolled courses (conversation is coming)
  - “No issue of personnel elimination as part of this” and no intentions to do things outside of policies, etc. – review is to identify where to begin/focus
- **Campus Master Plan** –
  - relocate the SSC and Career Services → main floor of the library
    - in coordination between services and ITS
  - moving Education to Massie Hall – architect is meeting with members of the department to determine needs and options in space
- **Announced Tenure and Promotion awardees** –
  - Full: Kimberly Inman, David DeSario, Sean Dunne, Gay Lynn Shipley
  - Associate with Tenure: Mikel Stone, Michelle Moore, Kimberly Cassidy
  - Tenure only: Sandra Beam
- **Commencement** –
  - upcoming on Saturday, plan for outdoor ceremony

*Questions for Provost Ahuja:*

- Who represented our disagreement with SB83?

- President of Ohio Faculty Council, also had meetings with Senator Cirino, all college presidents expressed concerns, however;
  - SSU is at a disadvantage since it is one of two universities that require state assisted funding to survive, difficult to speak out against it publicly as other institutions have
  - encouraged faculty senate to address it directly
- 500 institutions/individuals registered to speak against it (most contested bill in Ohio legislative history)

**Jennifer Pauley, Associate Provost –**

- **Task Force on Retention/Completion**
  - Registration Fair:
    - 36 students (some visiting multiple tables), 26 spoke with an adviser
    - 64-65 students registered that day
    - 14 students paid balances owed
    - *plan is to continue this in the fall*
- **Update on J1 (Academic Affairs Committee meetings and action):**
  - concluded work for the academic year, making a new list as issues arise
    - new challenges will include: GEP requirements, major requirements – making sure these are on the advising worksheets

**Matthew Crawford – Academic Program Performance Metrics Proposal**

- brought a document (please see attached) regarding revising data collection used for program performance metrics, discussed why the statistics and metrics currently requested are not/cannot be provided
- suggested changes were highlighted, other areas marked for removal
- *was not received well by members of the senate, discussion followed*
  - *determined that the original document has existed for 7 years and no reports have been provided since that time*
  - *concerns about policy change intentions, ranking of programs vs. original purpose of document, etc.*
- Discussion result: Asked that the original request be honored for one year prior to changes
  - No vote or motion on document

**8. Announcements from the Senate Floor**

None.

**9. Committee and Director Reports**

OFC Resolution against SB83 was shared (please see attached).

**10. Unfinished Business**

None

**11. New Business**

Statement from Chip Poirot included:

*“Chip Poirot, Chair of the Social Sciences Department spoke to the Provost’s decision to remove the Criminal Justice Major from the Social Science Department. He opened his remarks*

*by quoting the tragic words of George Floyd "I can't breathe" and emphasized the importance of understanding the context of Criminal Justice. He noted that the move had been done without the consent of the Department and that no procedure had been followed to do so. The Department had voted on and approved a curriculum for the major when it was proposed which overlapped strongly with the Sociology Major and was intended to complement, not undermine the Sociology Major. During the hiring process for the new position, multiple members of the Department perceived that the nature and purpose of the major had been arbitrarily redefined. The majority view of the search committee was that their recommendation had been overturned due to the views of one committee member. The major had been approved by the Department to fit in with the Liberal Arts mission of the Department to provide students with the historical and social context of social action and problems. Instead, the major was redefined to have a purely vocational emphasis. While a vocational program may fit better with the mission of the College of Professional Studies, the Department views this action as contrary to the spirit of shared governance. Chip Poirot also expressed further concerns about the possible future definition and placement of the Social Work degree as Social Work is an established minor in the Social Science Department and any movement should be done with the consent of the Department.*

Scott Douthat Spoke (I have no comments as to the accuracy of how Scott's remarks are portrayed). My response to Scott's remarks was sent to the Faculty following the meeting and can be incorporated or not into the record as people see fit."

- Scott Douthat responded, adding some information related to curricular materials developed that he felt were under utilized in current programmatic format. Stated that he was involved in the choice to relocate from CAS to CPS.
- *Some back and forth discussion occurred. Due to time limitations, Chip elected to summarize his response via campus email.*

11.A – 11.WW, except X moved to be bundled by Dovel Myers. Phil Blau Seconded. Bundle approved unanimously. Thomas Bunting moved the bundle be passed, seconded by Thomas Piontek. Curricular bundle approved unanimously.

## **12. Adjournment**

Motion to Adjourn by Mikel Stone, seconded by Thomas Bunting. Approved unanimously and meeting was adjourned.