

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

1. Call to Order

UFS President Mariah Woodward called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

2. Roll Taking

Secretary Sarah Ivers recorded the attendance as follows:

Gene Burns, Sandi Allen, Mikel Stone, Jennifer Scott, Ruby Gray, Andy Napper, Ryan Walker, Adam Miller, Phil Blau, Bastien LeCouffe, Thomas Piontek, and officers (Dovel Myers, Mariah Woodward, Drew Feight, and Sarah Ivers)

Absent: Jim Reneau, Sarah Clausing, Thomas Bunting, Sandra Beam

3. Approval of Minutes

No changes requested, seconded Ruby Gray. Approved, one abstention (Phil Blau).

4. Approval of Agenda

No corrections. Approved unanimously.

5. Announcements and Remarks from the Senate President Mariah Woodward

- Reminded membership to check emails for UFS position nominations.
- Submitted nominations for college reorganization committee have been shared with upper administration.

6. Treasurer's Report: No report, unexpected absence of Treasurer.

7. Administrative Reports:

Eric Braun, President – absent (no comments)

Sunil Ahuja, Provost – (arrived at 4:08, returned to his comments after Item 8):

- **Commencement:** Spring planning is underway – hoping to have an outdoor ceremony
- Will provide a written response to DNS Motion of Displeasure for CCP policy negligence prior to next UFS meeting.

Jennifer Pauley, Associate Provost:

- **J1 Survey Results:**
 - 62 responses, mostly faculty with a few advising staff, administrative chair
 - 10 responses for additional survey shared with administrative assistants
 - J1 Committee is looking into reported issues and responses.
 - Dr. Pauley expressed appreciation for those that participated.

8. Announcements from the Senate Floor

- **UFS-SEA Party** – April 18th at Port City Pub from 6 – 9 pm. All faculty are invited and may bring a guest. Please sign the sign-up sheet.
- **CCP Policy** – Resolution of Displeasure from Department of Natural Sciences shared by Senator Andy Napper
 - Administration remains in violation of department and OHC policy

Information shared by Andy Napper:

March 25, 2024

On March 8, 2024, the Department of Natural Sciences adopted a resolution expressing its displeasure regarding the handling of College Credit Plus by the Provost.

I was asked to present this resolution to my colleagues in the University Faculty Senate assembly, and I am pleased to address you all today.

Firstly-let me begin by giving you some history and background.

College credit plus, or CCP for short, is a program whereby students in junior-high and high-school can take college courses for credit. Students can either come to college to take our classes, we can come into their schools and teach our courses to them, or properly credentialed teachers can offer our courses in their schools.

If teachers offer the classes in their schools, the state requires us to conduct and write up an observation. In addition, a joint policy was developed and agreed upon by the administration and the UFS requiring a faculty mentor to be assigned.

Our department has participated in CCP since its inception and has developed good working conditions with our teachers. We feel like it has been a net positive for the University and a great recruiting tool for Shawnee State University.

Now, here's where the story takes a turn.

In October 2022, the Administration dramatically altered the renumeration for CCP, decreasing the payment by 70%. In addition, this policy was backdated by two months to the beginning of fall semester, retroactively lowering our compensation-and to top it off, an altered procedure was distributed which was not the one approved by senate in the 2017–2018 academic year.

In response to this alteration, most of our department CCP mentors declined to participate any more. Since all CCP courses needed mentors and observations, this should have resulted in swift action to re-establish compliance with local policies and state law.

Surprisingly, the Provost apparently decided to ignore the compliance issues and generally opted to avoid discussion of our concerns.

I asked the Provost for an update on CCP compliance at the January 2023 UFS meeting, but no information was provided.

I met with the Provost in February 2023, and followed up via email, asking why observations for CCP courses that ran in entirety during the past fall semester had not been completed. I was told that this was “not the case; will review.”

I filed a public records request in August 2023 asking for these observations and was told by the Assistant General Counsel that they were “unable to locate any observation records”.

In response to the inadequacy of responses from the Provost regarding our department’s involvement with College Credit Plus, the Natural Sciences department has RESOLVED that his actions are contrary to established internal policies and external regulations.

Additionally, the department further RESOLVES that it publicly expresses its displeasure at these actions taken on behalf of the Provost.

In conclusion, I am asking that the Department of Natural Sciences Resolution 001 be read into the full UFS record and that our department’s displeasure resolution be so noted.

Thank-you.

- Official **Resolution of Displeasure** was read into minutes (please see attached).

9. Committee and Director Reports

- Most recent OFC meeting was not attended by UFS leadership. Nothing to report.

10. Unfinished Business

None.

11. New Business

- Motion to bundle Items 11.A through Items 11.RR by Thomas Piontek.
 - Item O (Resolution for Naming of Faculty Research Award) is discussed. It is unclear who has the authority to change the name of this award. Precedence has been set by the naming of the Shannon Lawson Award. Administrative weigh in by Dr. Pauley indicated that faculty were not permitted to name an award in honor of a colleague without following an explicit pathway through the Developmental Foundation. Since the naming does not involve the transfer of money and it housed within the faculty body, it is unclear if this is necessary. The decision was made to consider the resolution as part of the curricular bundle to demonstrate faculty support for the suggested naming.
 - *Naming process initiated by Phil Blau.*
- Bundling motion was seconded by Dovel Meyers. All were in favor of bundling (unanimously passed). A second motion to pass the bundle was not made. However, a call for support of the bundle was made. All were in favor and the bundle passed unanimously.)

12. Adjournment

- Gene Burns motioned for adjournment.
 - Barry Lucas announced the **upcoming SEA and general membership meeting for April 16th**. Requested nominations for Bargaining Committee membership.
 - Reminded subcommittees to meet to prepared background material for upcoming negotiations.

- Jennifer Scott and other senators requested information about the BOT's inclusion of faculty in discussions related to recent Presidential designation.
 - BOT has no policy that requires them to follow criteria contrary to their actions.
 - A general discussion about *involvement opportunities* provided to faculty regarding their opinions and contribution to presidential search/designation process was had. It was explained to the general membership that a "360-degree review" of the Interim President's contributions and actions were held less than 24 hours before the announcement was made. If a record of the review was prepared following those discussions, it was not shared with faculty or staff. Faculty opinions were generally misrepresented by the BOT in the email disseminated to the campus body.
 - There is a need to look at OFC Policy related to Presidential Searches and BOT policies for the future.
- Phil Blau seconded the motion for adjournment. All voted in favor. Passed unanimously.