

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
International Room, Morris University Center
Zoom Meeting ID 990 0669 9283
September 22, 2022 – 2:30pm
Approved Minutes

The regular meeting of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee was called to order at 2:32 pm on Thursday, September 22, 2022 in the International Room of the Morris University Center by President Jingyi Jia.

Present: Jingyi Jia, E. Duff Wrobbel, Barbara McCracken, Robert Bitter, Igor Crk, Keith Hecht, Adriana Martinez, Kamran Shavezpur, Jie Ying

Absent: Michael Shaw

Guests: Charles Berger, Denise Cobb, Candace Hall, Jessica Harris, Derek Houston, Elza Ibroscheva, Stephen Kerber, Joshua Kryah, Danielle Lee, James Minor, Vance McCracken, Eric Ruckh, James Schram, Chrissy Simmons, Eric Voss, Amy Winn, Julie Zimmermann

Public Comment:

Vance McCracken, Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences, provided the following public comment:

I'm Vance McCracken, Chair of Biological Sciences. I'd like to bring concerns from several CAS chairs regarding the impacts that recent policies and procedures will have on our students, especially our graduate students.

- *First, the SPA process won't work for teaching assistants. Biological Sciences had at least three TAs whose hiring was delayed due to the SPA process, resulting in them not being paid on time. TAs will often be contracted last minute, and a process that can take up to four weeks just won't work. The process disproportionately affects international students, many of whom often have VISA complications and are contracted near the start of the semester. If the administration insists on using the SPA process for hiring TAs, I suggest that they do so at the position level: that is, departments propose the number of TAs that they need for their classes early in the preceding semester, and only hire the approved number of TAs.*
- *My second point deals with the removal of many courses from the pre-approved list of summer offerings. We understand that there is a process to petition the return of courses to the summer schedule, but we have been told that the bar for approval will be high. The cancellation of summer course sections will have negative impacts on both our undergraduate and graduate programs, as well as our TAs. For example, programs such as MATH and History have unique situations such as compressed programs and courses for teachers which require particular courses to be taught in the summer. These courses and programs are also at risk due to the new summer scheduling.*
- *Additionally, many departments already have a very limited number of teaching assistantships for summer. Loss of summer TA-ships will make recruitment of quality graduate students even more difficult, as many depend on summer funding while they pursue their research in the lab/field. This hardship is even more profound for our international students, who typically can only work on campus. Decline in our grad programs will also make it more difficult for faculty to bring in grant funds, and for departments to attract top-notch faculty.*
- *I hope you will consider these comments. Thank you for your time.*

Announcements:

There were no announcements.

Consideration of Minutes:

The minutes for the August 25, 2022 and September 8, 2022 meetings were approved as written.

New Business:

The October 6, 2022 Faculty Senate meeting agenda was previewed. Dean of the Graduate School Jerry Weinberg will highlight the FY22 progress and preview the FY23 Graduate School goals. Tom Foster will present on updates to the Student Experience Survey. The Faculty Senate meeting will also serve as a mock session using the Modified Feminist Process rules, rather than Robert's Rules.

Guests:

Provost Denise Cobb, Chancellor James Minor, Vice Chancellor for Antiracism, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Jessica Harris, and Interim Dean of the Lovejoy Library Eric Ruckh were guests at the meeting to respond to concerns about TA support, the Summer 2023 schedule, and the Strategic Position Alignment (SPA) process. In June 2022, Chancellor Minor gave a budget presentation, where he informed the University that current data indicates a projected deficit of at least \$18 million for FY22-23. In order to address the budget deficit, the Provost's Office is adjusting the level of TA support and the Summer 2023 schedule. Additionally, Chancellor's Council implemented a SPA process for all position requests, where departments and units with vacancies must detail why positions need filled based off the following criteria: compliance, campus safety, student success, and revenue generation. Faculty Senate Executive Committee members and guests highlighted low faculty and staff morale, enrollment and retention concerns related to cutting TA positions and eliminating summer course offerings, and the lack of shared governance in recent administrative decisions in their questions to the Chancellor and Provost.

Reports:

There were no reports.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 4:51 pm.

Submitted by Michael Tadlock, University Governance