FACULTY SENATE
Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2021


Senators Not Present:  Yanhai Du, Todd Hawley, Edgar Kooijman, Karen Mascolo

Ex-Officio Members Present:  Senior Vice President and Provost Melody Tankersley; Senior Vice Presidents: Lamar Hylton, Mark Polatajko; Vice Presidents: Sean Broghammer*, Michael Kavulic for Doug Delahanty*, Amoaba Gooden, Todd Snider for Rebecca Murphy*, John Rathje, Charlene Reed, Peggy Shadduck, Valoree Vargo, Jack Witt; Deans: Sonia Alemagno, Christina Bloebaum, Bryan Caldwell for Allan Boike, Ken Burhanna, James Hannon, Versie Johnson-Mallard, Mark Mistur, Mandy Munro-Stasiuk*, Diane Petrella, Eboni Pringle, Amy Reynolds, Alison Smith, Deborah Spake, Manfred van Dulmen  *Interim

Ex-Officio Members Not Present:  President Todd Diacon; Vice President Willis Walker

Observers Present:  Paul Farrell (Emeritus Professor), Brandon Allen (USS), Claire Jackman (GSS)

Guests Present:  Emma Andrus, Michael Bream, Aimee Bell, J.R. Campbell, Chris Dorsten, Jo Dowell, Christopher Fenk, Jennifer Hebebrand, Thomas Janson, Lynette Johnson, Zaria Johnson, Tess Kail, Jennifer Kellogg, Valerie Kelly, Dana Lawless-Andric, Babacar M‘Baye, Jennifer McDonough, Bryan Molnar, Susan Perry, Amy Quillin, Jim Raber, Therese Tillett, Sonya Williams

1. Call to Order

Chair Grimm called the meeting to order at 3:21 p.m. in the Governance Chambers, Kent Student Center. Attendees were also present on Microsoft TEAMS.

2. Roll Call

Secretary Dauterich called the roll.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Chair Grimm asked for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made and seconded (Smith/Bagheri). The agenda was approved unanimously.
4. **Approval of the Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes of September 13, 2021**

Chair Grimm asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 13, 2021, Faculty Senate meeting. A motion was made and seconded (Culver/Mukherjee).

The minutes were approved unanimously as written.

5. **Chair’s Remarks**

Chair Grimm delivered her remarks. [Chair’s Remarks]

She then invited comments or questions.

There were no questions or comments.

6. **Provost’s Remarks**

Provost Tankersley began by informing senate that it had been 580 days since the beginning of the pandemic when we ceased in-person classes due to COVID-19. She added that many messages had been sent to faculty about how to adjust to the pandemic as new information arose, and she thanked the faculty for pivoting, modifying, and adjusting gracefully and caringly.

She added that faculty will soon receive a reminder about another related message that was sent in August. That message made it clear that the unilateral faculty choice of instructional delivery method will no longer be available beginning in Spring 2022. Instead, the expectation is that the online and in-person delivery of courses and sections of courses will reflect the schedules of pre-pandemic semesters. Only courses that are approved through standard curricular processes for online delivery can be scheduled as such as we move forward. The fact that a course was delivered remotely during the pandemic does not automatically mean that it has been approved for online delivery. If instructors are not sure about how to deliver a course, chairs, directors, and deans can help make that decision. Overall, the number of sections offered online must reflect the numbers offered prior to the pandemic. Finally, she added that online course delivery does not negate the need for faculty presence on campus.

Provost Tankersley continued by saying that we are well on our way to recovery. She added that we are in a critical moment when we must consider where we are headed and how to build long-term sustainable strategies that will serve us well into the future. She said that now is the time for planning and implementing transformational change. We have challenges that we must address related to our enrollment, our finances, and the mental health and well-being of our faculty, staff, and students. In addition, we need to consider social justice, diversity, equity, and the student experience. Provost Tankersley said that we must address these challenges in the context of our academic programming, our instructional delivery, and our supplemental support. She mentioned that Associate Provost van Dulmen would be addressing the strategic planning process for academic affairs later in the meeting.

She thanked the senate for everything they have already done and everything they will do moving forward.
She then invited comments or questions.

There were no comments or questions.

7. Educational Policies Council (EPC):

a. Action Item: College of Communication & Information: School of Emerging Media and Technology – Emerging Media and Technology - M.S.: Establishment of a new degree program to replace the Master of Digital Sciences degree (Fall 2022 pending final approvals). (Michael Beam – Director, School of Emerging Media & Technology)

Director Beam explained that the previous graduate program had used the old school name, and the name of the school had changed, so they wanted to revise it to update the emphasis on emerging media and technology.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the item (Sheehan/Child).

Chair Grimm then invited comments or questions.

Senator Smith asked whether this was largely a name change or whether there were substantive changes.

Director Beam answered that there are three new courses and a smaller list of interdisciplinary courses than in the previous program.

There were no further comments or questions.

The motion passed unanimously.

b. Action Item: College of Business Administration: Name Revision of College of Business Administration to College of Business and Entrepreneurship (Spring 2022). (Deborah Spake – Dean, College of Business Administration)

Dean Spake explained the reasons for the name change. “Administration” is an outdated term for business colleges. Only Youngstown State in Ohio continues to use the term. A more modern approach is to name a college of business with a focal discipline reflective of its programs and co-curricular activities. The new name would accomplish this.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the item (Dauterich/Mukherjee).

Chair Grimm then invited comments or questions.

There were no comments or questions.

The motion passed unanimously.

8. Update: Academic Affairs Strategic Planning (Melody Tankersley – Senior Vice President & Provost and Manfred van Dulmen – Associate Provost for Academic Affairs & Dean for the Division of Graduate Studies)
Associate Provost van Dulmen said that the last strategic plan was developed about ten years ago. The new plan (“The Golden Road to Student Success”) will contain some of the objectives of the old plan including retention and graduation goals, but new goals and objectives will be identified as well. Guiding principles of the new strategic plan include being a student-ready college, providing access to education, and creating a sense of belonging. University priorities connected to the new strategic plan will include being an access institution, providing access and completion opportunities, creating and discovering new knowledge, and committing to community engagement.

He then listed the previous strategic planning priorities but pointed out that the new plan will add community engagement and lifelong learning as goals. Other goals of the plan are ensuring student success, enhancing academic excellence and innovation, expanding breakthrough research and creative endeavors, engaging the world beyond our campus, securing our financial future, and developing and reorganizing our people.

He explained that although strategic planning is not always seen as meaningful, the acronym CLIME could help us understand how it can be. CLIME is meant to explain what the strategic plan should be: (1) continuous, (2) living, (3) innovative, (4) meaningful, and (5) elevating.

He added that a major goal is to elevate the academic profile of the university.

He also listed the leaders and committees that will work on the new plan. These will include representation from faculty, staff, and students.

Associate Provost van Dulmen finished with a slide showing the timeline of the process.

Chair Grimm then invited comments or questions.

Senator Smith said that the “Ensuring Student Success” goal of the previous and new plan is problematic because faculty cannot do this without students themselves taking responsibility for success. Faculty can maximize the likelihood of success and help students see their role, but they cannot ensure that students will always take advantage of these opportunities.

Associate Provost van Dulmen said that he will ask committees to review their names and recommend changes.

Senator Roxburgh suggested that the goal name could be changed to something that would mention how we enact student success. She also suggested that “The Golden Road to Success” connects to precious metals and the Golden Rule and wondered why we are using that name for the plan.

Associate Provost van Dulmen said it refers to Golden Flashes and that “road” refers to the many paths students can take to success.

Senator Kaplan said that he was concerned because university-wide committees in the past have performed enormous amounts of work that amounted to little or nothing. He wanted to know how this will be different.
Associate Provost van Dulmen acknowledged that strategic processes fail without implementation teams, but this plan will have one. Staff will be in place to keep people accountable and make sure the work is happening.

Senator Sheehan said that feedback to the university as a whole will be important. She also suggested that “Golden Flashes Road” might be a fix for the title. Finally, she suggested that faculty reaching out individually to students will help them succeed as well.

Associate Provost van Dulmen agreed and added that it would help if instructors could be available a few minutes before or after class.

Chair Grimm suggested “The Blue and Gold Road” as a name.

There were no further comments or questions.

9. **Old Business**

There was no old business.

10. **New Business**

There was no new business.

11. **Announcements / Statements for the Record**

Senator Kracht announced that the Faculty Senate Fall Retreat will be held on Friday, October 29, 2021 at 12:00-2:00 p.m. at Laziza in downtown Kent. Halloween costumes and masks are optional. The topic will be a discussion of priorities and goals for the upcoming academic year.

Dean Pringle announced that this year we will celebrate our national First-Generation Week, and we will have a big campus-wide celebration on November 10th. They will also honor faculty, staff, graduate students, and undergraduate students during that time. She placed a link in the chatroom, so senators could nominate faculty, staff, undergraduate, or graduate students to be honored.

Senator Taylor announced that the Celebrating Teaching Conference would be held on October 22 remotely on Teams. Please see [www.kent.edu/ctl](http://www.kent.edu/ctl).

There were no further announcements/statements for the record.

12. **Adjournment**

Chair Grimm adjourned the meeting at 4:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Edward Dauterich
Secretary, Faculty Senate