1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Laux 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

Vice Chair Laux asked for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made and seconded (Sheehan/Bagheri). The agenda was approved unanimously.

4. Approval of the Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes of November 8, 2021

Vice Chair Laux asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 8, 2021, Faculty Senate meeting. A motion was made and seconded (Mocioalca/Smith).

The minutes were approved unanimously as written.

5. Chair’s Remarks

There were no Chair’s Remarks for this meeting.

Vice Chair Laux then turned over the microphone to President Diacon.

6. President’s Remarks

President Diacon thanked everyone for teaching, mentoring, and doing research during the pandemic. He specifically acknowledged Julie Volcheck who will be retiring. He also thanked three professors in Public Health for pandemic help, the Faculty Senate, the Kent State AAUP, and Associate Provost van Dulmen for their work. He then gave numbers relating to the pandemic. He said that there is a 17.5% positivity rating in Portage County with 127 new cases per day over the last seven days. Kent State numbers are up, but not at the level of Portage County or the state. Positivity at Kent is 2.93%. There were 77 positive cases last week at the university. 55 of these were students and 22 were employees. He noted that this was a doubling of October’s numbers and that there were currently 24 students in isolation. Concerning vaccinations, he mentioned that 85% of residence hall students are vaccinated in addition to 89% of full-time faculty. Regarding approved exemptions, there have been 205 (5% of staff and 6% of students).

He then invited comments or questions.

Senator Piccirillo-Smith mentioned that the mask mandate at basketball games was not being followed well, and this dissuades her from attending. She asked what could be done to address this.

President Diacon said that he has attended many events, but he will talk to the new athletic director and see what can be done.

Senator Mocioalca mentioned that many students have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and it has low efficacy. She asked whether other vaccines might be offered to students, and what the capacity for boosters was.

President Diacon turned the question over to Associate Provost van Dulmen.
Associate Provost van Dulmen said booster services are available at the DeWeese Health Center and that the university will continue to encourage boosters and full vaccination.

Senator Kaplan asked about the plan for non-vaccinated members of the KSU community.

President Diacon said that a texting/calling campaign has begun to contact every student without evidence or an exemption.

There were no further comments or questions.

7. Educational Policies Council (EPC) Action Items:

a. **College of the Arts & Sciences: Department of Geology – Renaming unit to the Department of Earth Sciences (Fall 2022).** (Daniel Holm – Chair, Department of Geology)

Chair Holm explained the name change. The change follows national trends.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change (Kooijman/Roxburgh).

Senator Du asked whether any courses or other aspects of the program were changing.

Chair Holm said there were not.

There were no further comments or questions.

The motion passed unanimously.

b. **College of Education, Health & Human Services: School of Teaching, Learning and Curriculum Studies – Sport, Exercise and Performance Psychology – Establish undergraduate major to be fully online and hybrid (Fall 2022).** (Martha Lash – Interim Director, School of Teaching, Learning and Curriculum Studies and Marta Guivernau – Assistant Professor, School of Foundations, Leadership and Administration)

Assistant Professor Guivernau explained the proposal.

A motion was made to approve the proposal (Dauterich).

Vice Chair Laux then asked for comments or questions.

There were no comments or questions.

The motion passed unanimously.

8. Old Business: Committee Description Updates

Vice Chair Laux reminded senate of the changes to the committee descriptions from the last meeting and pointed out the housekeeping changes that had been put forth by the Executive Committee since the last full senate meeting.
Vice Chair Laux asked for a motion and a second to approve the changes.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the items as a slate (Smith/Kaplan).

There was no discussion about considering the items as a slate, and it passed unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to approve both items (Sheehan/Smith).

There was no discussion on either item.

The items were approved unanimously.

9. New Business

Discussion Item: Draft Revisions to Policy 4-02.3 Administrative Policy and Procedure for Student Academic Complaints as approved by the Professional Standards Committee (Chair of the Professional Standards Committee, Deborah Smith, Professor, Philosophy)

Senator Smith explained the proposal. There have been two complaint policies—one for Kent and one for regional campuses. A single policy would be optimal. The proposal going forward would be to delete the regional campus policy from the register and revise the Kent campus policy to reflect the regional campus needs. Revisions will focus on academic complaints rather than complaints covered by other university policies. The regional campus role of campus complaint advisor will be removed from the new policy if approved. Faculty members appointed to deal with complaints will make sure committees for complaints will consist of 3-5 faculty and 1-2 students (left to the discretion of individual campuses—this should be delineated in unit handbooks). Faculty members, in the proposed changes, will be appointed to the committee at the end of the Spring semester. She also highlighted housekeeping questions and concerns, which were provided in documents distributed before the meeting.

She then invited comments or questions.

Senator Guercio asked about the delegation of work to assistant deans. She said that even associate and assistant deans may not be able to devote the necessary amount of time to the question and that maybe they should be able to send it to another administrator.

Senator Smith said she will take the question to the PSC.

Senator Zhu brought up the structure of the complaint process on regional campuses and said that things are often resolved informally and that it would be good if there was still room for this. She also asked a question about who would have jurisdiction over certain complaints.

Senator Smith explained the proposed unified procedure for addressing complaints and said that the campus offering the class would be the campus where the jurisdiction would reside. She added that it is always suggested that students first start with communicating with their instructors before filing a student complaint. No mediation would be necessary if complaints were resolved at this stage.

Senator Zhu thanked her for her comments.
Senator Bagheri asked for some clarification about the number of faculty members required as well as the informal role that some faculty could play in the past toward mediating the situation and how CATS would work with this policy since it has no specific campus.

Senator Smith clarified the concerns about faculty members and said that she may need to work with making the language more specific when it applies to CATS; she suggested that PSC will need to look at how to reword the policy about jurisdiction since CATS is an academic unit.

Senator Sheehan asked about whether the committee had considered allocations of TT/NTE members on a committee.

Senator Smith said that would be up to individual academic units.

Senator Guercio asked again about the number of faculty and students on the complaint committees and said that she would like to see more students involved.

Senator Smith responded that at least one student perspective would be involved, and she added that another would be possible but would probably not be made a requirement if the committee reconsidered it.

Senator Guercio stated that she believed more student representation is important, so there will be more balance at complaint hearings.

Senator Smith replied that she will bring those concerns back to the PSC.

There were no further comments or questions.

10. Announcements / Statements for the Record

Vice President Rathje said that he and the provost have agreed that the budget and supervision of online proctoring will move from the Office of Continuing and Distance Education to Information Technology and will be under Executive Director James Raber’s direction.

11. Adjournment

Vice Chair Laux adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Edward Dauterich
Secretary, Faculty Senate