

Faculty Senate Agenda December 14, 2020

Item No.	Item	PDF Pg. No.
1	Call to Order	
2	Roll Call	
3	Approval of Agenda	
4	Approval of the November 9, 2020 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes	2-10
5	Chair's Remarks	
6	Provost's Remarks – <i>waiting on confirmation</i>	
7	EPC Item: <u>Educational Policies Council</u> : Establishment of EPC subcommittees on academic policy, academic calendar, transfer credit, fiscal impact statement and international partnerships and collaborations View proposed subcommittees, charge and composition	
8	Old Business:	
9	New Business: Discussion Item: Faculty Ombuds	
10	Announcements / Statements for the Record	
11	Adjourn	
	Additional Items:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of October 28, 2020 	11-12
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2020 	13-14



FACULTY SENATE

Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2020

Senators Present: Ann Abraham, Omid Bagheri, Kathy Bergh, Jeffrey Ciesla, Tammy Clewell, Alice Colwell, Timothy Culver, Jennifer Cunningham, Ed Dauterich, Tracy Dodson, Yanhai Du, Jean Engohang-Ndong, Julie Evey, Pamela Grimm, Angela Guercio, Mariann Harding, David Kaplan, Edgar Kooijman, Darci Kracht, Cynthia Kristof, Janice Kroeger, Velvet Landingham, Tracy Laux, Cathy Marshall, Mahli Mechenbier, Oana Mocioalca, Abe Osbourne, Vic Perera, Amy Petrines, Linda Piccirillo-Smith, Helen Piontkivska, Terri Polanski, Susan Roxburgh, Athena Salaba, Murali Shanker, Diane Stroup, Robin Vande Zande, Theresa Walton-Fisette, Donald White, Haiyan Zhu

Senators Not Present: Sue Clement, Todd Hawley, David Middleton, Deepraj Mukherjee, Kimberly Peer, Deborah Smith, Melissa Zullo

Ex-Officio Members Present: President Todd Diacon; Senior Vice President and Provost Melody Tankersley*; Senior Vice President Mark Polatajko; Vice Presidents: David Dees*, Paul DiCorleto, Amoaba Gooden*, Lamar Hylton, Rebecca Murphy*, Mary Parker, John Rathje, Charlene Reed, Jack Witt; Deans: Sonia Alemagno, Christina Bloebaum, Allan Boike, Ken Burhanna, John Crawford-Spinelli, James Hannon, Mark Mistur, Mandy Munro-Stasiuk*, Eboni Pringle, Amy Reynolds, Denice Sheehan*, Alison Smith, Deborah Spake, Manfred van Dulmen* *Interim

Ex-Officio Members Not Present: Vice Presidents: Valoree Vargo, Willis Walker; Dean Susan Stocker

Observers Present: Thomas Janson (Emeritus Professor), Claire Jackman (GSS), Thomas Niepsuj (USS)

Guests Present: Sue Averill, J.R. Campbell, Jo Dowell, Tameka Ellington, Jennifer Hebebrand, Lynette Johnson, Tess Kail, Karen Keenan, Dana Lawless-Andric, Michael Lehman, Shelley Marshall, Babacar M'Baye, Jennifer Marcinkiewicz, Laura Melby, Megan McSweeney, Susan Perry, Amy Quillin, Jim Raber, Hollie Simpson, Therese Tillett

1. Call to Order

Chair Grimm called the meeting to order at 3:19 p.m. 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 (Bagheri/Piccirillo-Smith). The motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of the October 12, 2020 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the meeting (Mocioalca/Salaba). The minutes were passed unanimously as written.

5. Chair's Remarks

Chair Grimm delivered her remarks. [Attachment]

There were no comments or questions.

6. President's Remarks

President Diacon thanked Chair Grimm for her remarks. He then said we face challenges, have opportunities, and have many things to be thankful for and to celebrate. Challenges include enrollment because of COVID-19. There are noticeable declines for next fall's enrollment class, which are similar to the rest of the state (15-35%), but we are still down by double digits compared to last year. Seniors in high school are currently hesitant to apply to college because of the implications of the pandemic. Campus visits ended when Portage County went red, so it is impressive that Vice President Parker and others have found ways to bring students in while combatting the pandemic and encouraging enrollment. Campus visits will be reinstituted in the future. State funding for this fiscal year can still be revisited, but the funding for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 is still uncertain. He mentioned that as we confront the challenges, the administration's commitment is to focus on the core mission and activities of the universities when making tough decisions. He said that there are three such core activities at Kent State: (1) to guarantee access to higher education and to engineer increasing success in graduating students; (2) creation and dissemination of new knowledge and creative endeavors; and (3) a commitment to improving the communities our campuses inhabit. Focusing on these three areas leads to an emphasis on protecting spending and academic affairs going forward. If and when we have to make further difficult budget decisions, we will need to start thinking about what we are going to stop doing completely so that we can keep doing other things and even enhance spending in other areas.

He then moved to an explanation of the university's available opportunities. He said that we have opportunities to rethink how we do things and how we operate our campuses. We can look at the the appropriate staffing levels on our campuses, the appropriate amount of physical building space, and other areas. As an example, he pointed out that there was a plan for a parking garage for the new College of Business Administration Building. He then asked whether we would need it after the pandemic and pointed out that not building it could lead to a potential savings of 28 million dollars that could be applied elsewhere.

He then pointed out accomplishments that have been made. He suggested that we should be thankful for the pandemic leadership provided by Manfred van Dulmen, Julie Volcheck, Tara Smith, Chris Woolverton, and Melissa Zullo. He also thanked faculty leaders for their support and leadership during this semester of challenges. He added that Kent State is a finalist in the Association of Land Grant and Public Universities Degree Completion Award competition. To be a finalist for this award is a huge recognition for our efforts to increase graduation rates. He thanked Dean Eboni Pringle and Dana Lawless-Andric for helping the university become a finalist. He also mentioned that *Forbes* recently named Kent State the fourth best employer in Ohio on their 2020 America's Best-in-State Employers list, and that Campus Pride recently named Kent State to its Best of the Best LGBTQ friendly colleges and universities. Kent is one of only 40

schools nationwide on this list. Kent is the only school in the Mid-American Conference on the list. He thanked Director Ken Ditlevson and others for their ongoing leadership.

Chair Grimm invited comments or questions.

Senator White asked about how to mute notifications when TEAMS is opening.

Dean Pringle explained how to change status to “Do Not Disturb” to avoid notifications.

Senator Engohang-Ndong thanked President Diacon for his presentation and asked whether regional campuses had a good infrastructure to provide students for help attaining a degree (in the way that the Kent campus does). He wanted to know whether there is a plan to help regional campuses.

President Diacon replied that the Kent infrastructure is larger because they have a larger face-to-face interaction than the strong, smaller face-to-face interaction at regionals.

Interim Vice President Dees added that many regional students want or need to be part-time. In addition, regionals are working across the system to share resources, tutoring, and best practices better. They are also looking at re-recruiting students who may have left. They are leveraging (even more) the smaller, personal touch that the regional campuses have. Regional campus students value the connection with faculty, and he will find more ways to help faculty connect to students at all campuses.

There were no further comments or questions.

7. Report: University Council on Technology (UCT) (Shelley Marshall, Chair of the University Council on Technology and Associate Lecturer, Computer Technology, Ashtabula)

Chair Marshall began by thanking all members of the UCT. The biggest project they worked on recently was the learning management system (LMS) review. The subcommittee of the review was faculty-focused. She thanked Jim Raber, Val Kelly, Wendy Shih and others for their leadership on the committee and added that there were too many others to thank. The review of the LMS was completed in the summer, and Canvas has been selected and approved by the Board of Trustees. Soon there will be communication about whether contract talks with Canvas have been resolved. Jim Raber and Val Kelly will lead faculty through orientation to Canvas. There is also a subcommittee that is reviewing policy for data retention in the LMS. The committee is working with units all across the university on this project. This includes the Registrar's Office, people involved with the RPT process, auditing (especially as it relates to the Higher Learning Commission), and faculty voices. They are also reaching out to Inter University Council partners to see what best practices they use.

In addition to the LMS, the UCT also recently reviewed Scantron utilization. Part of the change in usage and need for review was due to COVID-19 changes, but also the university lost many of the employees who supported the Scantron infrastructure through the buyout, so they have instituted a new product called Gradescope, and there is training available.

They have also created VDI, which is the Virtual Desktop Exploration Committee, which looks at ways that virtual machines and virtual technology can help as both a research tool and an instructional tool.

The UCT is also working very closely with Jim Raber and Bob Eckman on network and security projects as they relate to instruction, and both have included the UCT in classroom and instructional technology and their security initiatives.

She then invited comments or questions.

Chair Grimm asked what a virtual desktop was.

Chair Marshall replied that it is just a computer in the cloud. As an example, she said that if she were a graduate student and had a Mac but needed a PC and needed certain software that is only available to the university or only available on PC, she would be able to use this virtual desktop or virtual machine in the cloud as if it were a real computer sitting in front of her.

Senator Roxburgh asked whether RTP processes would affect FolioWeb.

Chair Marshall said that they would not.

Senator Kroeger asked whether Canvas would replace Blackboard.

Chair Marshall said it was still in the negotiation process.

Senator Kroeger asked whether faculty could practice on Canvas before it becomes our LMS.

Chair Marshall directed her to the Teaching with Canvas site that allows faculty to experiment with the process.

Senator Roxburgh asked what the timeline was for introducing Canvas.

Chair Marshall replied that it will be a lengthy process. The university website has a potential timeline, but it is not certain.

Chair Grimm said that assuming the contract goes through with Canvas, it will take years to transition as it did with Blackboard.

Executive Director Raber said that the timeline is expected to be done in about eighteen months, which is standard for large-scale migrations. For those who want a feel of what Canvas looks like, a link is posted on the LMS search website. The link shows student and faculty experiences with the LMS.

Senator Stroup asked when Gradescope would be implemented.

Chair Marshall said that it would be an addition to Scantron, and we would not be getting rid of Scantron.

Senator Stroup expressed concerns about students having to switch to new systems. Lack of uniformity is a problem. She asked when Gradescope would be available for trial use.

Chair Marshall said it is available now and that they are constantly concerned about the student experience. She reiterated that Gradescope was supplemental, not mandatory.

Senator Bagheri asked whether there was a plan to transfer faculty Blackboard material to Canvas and how that process might work.

Executive Director Raber replied that faculty material will be migrated in most cases, and IT can help with faculty who have large amounts of data that they want to transfer to the new system.

Senator Guercio expressed concern about the percentage of data that could be transferred from one system to another. She asked how much faculty intervention would be required.

Chair Marshall said that they do not have a definite percentage.

Executive Director Raber said that content migrates well, but that message boards, grades, etc. might be harder to transfer.

Provost Tankersley thanked the LMS committee and pointed out that the effort had been going on for a long time and that Blackboard was no longer useful for our purposes. The change during the time of COVID-19 is a tragic consequence, but Canvas is a better platform. We will work behind the scenes to migrate all courses to the new system, and the migration should be fairly smooth. She wants everyone to know the change was a necessity rather than a whim, and faculty will be given all needed support with the new system.

Senator Shanker asked what the cost for running two systems at the same time was.

Executive Director Raber said it was similar to having two mortgage payments. Canvas will subsidize costs for the first eight or nine months.

Senator Roxburgh thanked Provost Tankersley but warned that faculty will be worried and may face too many resources to work with given the time they have to practice with Canvas. She emphasized that the new system needs to be easily and quickly accessible.

Vice President Rathje reinforced that his division will stand behind supporting the movement of content from Blackboard to Canvas and will assist with any training concerns.

Senator Engohang-Ndong asked whether faculty will have a few years to adjust to the new LMS.

Chair Marshall replied that the shift will be incremental.

Senator Mechenbier complimented Chair Marshall and her team on the selection of the new LMS and pointed out that senators had options to vote on the systems in the past. She mentioned it is our responsibility to make sure things get moved to the new system.

Chair Grimm thanked Chair Marshall and her team for their work, particularly for extensive consultation with faculty.

Senator Guercio asked about the timeline for agreement and implementation of the new system.

Executive Director Raber said that the contract should be finalized soon, and technical implementation will follow shortly afterward. This is hopefully going to be ready in the next few months, and piloting could happen in the spring.

Chair Marshall reminded senate that the timeline originally suggested that implementation would take about 18 months. She also invited people to express interest if they want to pilot the system early.

There were no further comments or questions.

8. Old Business: EPC Membership

Senator Laux, as Chair of and on behalf of the Committee on Committees, summarized the proposed changes to membership for the EPC. He then invited questions or comments.

There were no questions or comments.

The changes passed unanimously.

9. New Business

Chair Grimm mentioned an e-mail from Tiera Moore (Student Body President for Undergraduate Student Government (USG)) and said that there were concerns about international students. The concerns include whether it would be possible for faculty to record class sessions for international students who are not able to return in time to attend. Another question was whether international students were being advised to remain in the residence halls over the break from fall to spring semester. The final concern was about proposed changes or elimination of student visas.

Chair Grimm mentioned that faculty have already been encouraged to record class sessions for cases like this, and she then invited President Diacon and Vice President Hylton to address other concerns.

President Diacon said Kent State did sign on to an IUC Ohio Public University Presidents' letter identifying those issues and concerns and did the same with an Association of Public and Land Grant University letter, so the concerns are central to the university's governance work.

Vice President Hylton responded to the second concern and said that Kent State does work with international students on a circumstantial basis relative to staying beyond the time that students are expected to be in the residence halls. He encouraged both President Moore and her leadership team to work in concert and collaboration with housing and residence services staff to get more specific questions answered.

Chair Grimm thanked them for their responses.

10. Announcements/Statements for the Record

Senator Kracht thanked Interim Vice President Gooden for being the speaker at the Faculty Senate Retreat on the previous Friday.

There were no further announcements or statements for the record.

11. Adjournment

Chair Grimm adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Edward Dauterich
Secretary, Faculty Senate

Attachment

Chair's Remarks for November 9, 2020 Faculty Senate Meeting

First, I would like to officially congratulate Dr. Melody Tankersley on her appointment as our new Senior Vice President and Provost. Congratulations Melody!

And now, for Thanksgiving.

For many years we would travel to Skaneateles, New York to have Thanksgiving with my aunt Annie and my uncle Leo and my cousins Karen and Brenda. "We" included myself, my three brothers, my sister, and my parents. My aunt Kathy and uncle Artie, and their four kids, would also be there. Grandma would go down a few days earlier so she could help with the preparation. It was a full house and an enduring memory is cousins piled on the floor in sleeping bags in the living room in front of the fireplace!

It was always great fun but because it was in November in central New York, it wasn't unusual to run into bad weather. One year we had waited until Thanksgiving Day to go because my mother, the nurse, had to work the night before. She came home from the hospital and slept for a few hours and then seven of us packed into the car. The forecast was not good but my father thought we should take a crack at it. We got about 30 minutes outside of Buffalo on the 90 and the road was closed.

We turned around and came back to Buffalo. There we were a family of seven with nothing to do on Thanksgiving. So, my father called my uncle John. He's not really my uncle but my dad and uncle John were best friends since kindergarten so he and his family were my aunt and uncle and seven cousins. My aunt Marian and uncle John invited us to join them for Thanksgiving. There we were, 20 people crammed into a very tiny house with tables set up in the dining room and in the living room and in the kitchen. I think about how crazy it was for my aunt Marian to invite another seven people for Thanksgiving with zero notice. But she did. And we had a wonderful time. Sharing bounty and time with family. That's what Thanksgiving is all about. I am so grateful to have had aunts and uncles (by blood or bond) that were so kind and so generous and to have had that family time together.

This Thanksgiving is likely to be different. We are all much less likely to be traveling and we are all much less likely to be getting together in large groups. Staying home is the right thing to do. But it's going to be hard. We're all getting pretty good at virtual meetings and maybe we can do virtual Thanksgiving if we can't be there in person, but it's not the same.

Sometimes it's easier than other times to keep front and center what we have to be thankful for. As I begin reflecting on this subject for our rapidly approaching Thanksgiving break, I start by being thankful I have a job. I'm thankful that Kent State University adopted an opt-in approach for dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. Giving students, faculty and staff choice, whenever possible, of how they wanted to engage during the pandemic was incredibly important. I'm thankful for the colleagues and friends who have so selflessly given their time, effort and energy to make this year as good as it can possibly be. I'm thankful that my students are coping and seem to be doing quite well. I'm thankful that my family and friends have stayed safe in the time of COVID. I'm thankful the election is over and I'll be even more thankful once our traditional peaceful transition of government to a new party has taken place.

And I am really, really thankful that 2020 is coming to an end! It's been a long time since I've really looked forward to a new year with quite so much enthusiasm.

I hope you all have a safe, happy and thankful Thanksgiving. In this time of celebrating, remember that many of our fellow citizens, of both the United States and the world, are unemployed and experiencing food insecurity. For those of us lucky enough to be in a better situation, please consider showing your gratitude by sharing with those who are less fortunate.

Thank you.
Pamela E. Grimm
Chair, Faculty Senate



**Faculty Senate Executive Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
October 28, 2020**

Present: Pamela Grimm (Chair), Tracy Laux (Vice Chair), Ed Dauterich (Secretary),
Darci Kracht (At-Large), Melissa Zullo (Appointed), Ann Abraham (Appointed)

Not Present:

Guests Present:

1. Call to Order

Chair Grimm called the meeting to order at 3:19 p.m. on Microsoft Teams.

2. Call for Nominations—Tenure and Promotion Advisory Boards

The committee worked on a list of nominees to recommend to the provost. The list will be finalized in the future. Senator Zullo left the meeting at 4:00 p.m. Chair Grimm left the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

3. EPC Membership

The membership description will be forwarded to senate for a vote.

4. EPC Items from the October 19, 2020, EPC Meeting

This item was postponed.

5. Finalize Agenda for the November 9 Faculty Senate Meeting

This item was postponed.

6. Approval of Minutes

a. Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes of October 12, 2020

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes (Abraham/Kracht). The minutes passed unanimously as written.

b. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of October 21, 2020

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes (Kracht/Abraham). The minutes passed unanimously as written.

7. Additional Items

There were no additional items.

8. Adjournment

Vice Chair Laux adjourned the meeting at 4:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Edward Dauterich
Secretary, Faculty Senate



**Faculty Senate Executive Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
November 18, 2020**

Present: Pamela Grimm (Chair), Tracy Laux (Vice Chair), Ed Dauterich (Secretary),
Darci Kracht (At-Large), Melissa Zullo (Appointed), Ann Abraham (Appointed)

Not Present:

Guests Present: President Todd Diacon, Provost Melody Tankersley, Executive Director Jim Raber

1. Call to Order

Chair Grimm called the meeting to order at 3:16 p.m. on Microsoft Teams.

2. Discuss Topics for President Diacon and Provost Tankersley

The Executive Committee decided to ask the President and Provost about the availability of testing for COVID-19 and the results of the search for a Vice President of Regional Campuses.

3. Tenure Advisory Board (TAB) and Promotion Advisory Board (PAB) Nominations

Final nominees were selected to forward to the administration for consideration.

4. Approval of Minutes: Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of October 28, 2020

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the meeting (Abraham/Laux). The minutes were passed unanimously as written.

5. (4:00) Meet with President Diacon and Provost Tankersley

The president and provost discussed the topics listed above. Candidates for the Vice President of Regional Campuses have been invited to visit the campuses. They have accepted, and decisions will be made after the visits. Melinda Arnold has accepted the position of Dean of the Trumbull Campus. President Diacon said enrollment is starting to recover for next fall, and we are not too far from normal expectations. Residence halls

and dining contracts are down significantly. Senator Zullo explained the testing situation for Spring 2020. All students will be tested at move-in. They will be advised to quarantine in rooms until they receive testing results. Any positive-tested students will have to move to isolation. There will be high-frequency, high-volume testing (every person is tested twice per week) for the following few weeks. This may continue if necessary. Quarantine and isolation terms will be decided by the local health department. Wastewater testing has begun, and five sites will be tested, which should help to estimate the largest number of possible cases.

6. Educational Policies Council (EPC) Items from the November 16, 2020 EPC Meeting

The new subcommittee descriptions for EPC were chosen to be sent forward to the full senate for discussion.

7. Tentative Agenda for the December 14 Faculty Senate Meeting

A tentative agenda was set.

8. Faculty Senate Elections Update

The Executive Committee discussed the vacancies that will occur on Faculty Senate for the next academic year.

9. Additional Items

At 4:43, the Executive Committee invited Jim Raber (Executive Director of Information Services Educational Technology and Service Management) to come to the meeting and speak about data retention under the new learning management system (LMS). Executive Director Raber said that a lot of content currently exists in Blackboard, some of which had been migrated from WebCT. Much of it has not been used in a long time. He contacted deans and others to see what demands accreditation and other areas would have for what needs to be retained in the move to a new system. There is no formal language for what will be retained yet, but he wants to make sure that faculty are not hampered. He said we will have a policy to adhere to for data retention when other parties have been consulted. It looks like data would probably be active for four years, archived for two years after that, and then possibly dropped. Warnings could be sent to active faculty whose data is in danger of no longer being retained, along with instructions for how to export that data.

10. Adjournment

Chair Grimm adjourned the meeting at 5:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Edward Dauterich
Secretary, Faculty Senate