

Faculty Senate

May 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Approved by the Senate at the 9/5/2023 Regular Senate Meeting

Tuesday, May 2, 2023

3:30 – 5:00 pm

Barkley Room and via Zoom

Senator in Attendance (including outgoing senators): Oliver Beckers, Michael Bordieri, Brian Bourke, Megan Boutin, Michael Busby, Whitney Cassidy-Caywood, Paul Foote, Stephanie Ford, Nikki Gaylord, Eran Guse, Jeff Henry, Ray Horton, Amanda Joyce, Samer Khalil, Kenneth Kim, Jonathan Lyon, Naveen Musunuru, Heidi Ortega, Barbie Papjeski, David Pizzo, Ted Porter, Ben Post, Thomas Powell, Brenda Reeves, David Roach, Jenny Rogers, Faris Sahawneh, Shri Singh, Stephanie Sullivan, Jan Super, Ken Sutrick, Justin Taylor, Oluwabunmi Dada (proxy for David Wilbanks), Steve Cox (proxy for Jenilee Williams), Andrea Willson, and Abdual Yarali.

- I. Call to Order at 3:07 due to technical challenges with Zoom
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - Minutes from the 4/4/2023 regular meeting were approved.
- III. Welcome from Faculty Senate President – Dr. David Roach.
 - President Roach open the meeting with a two-minute parody [video](#) highlighting the scandal of him appearing to be “asleep at the wheel” in TV news footage of the April University budget town hall. References to the Matrix movies were also made, which long-time faculty senators recognized as connecting to a previous [video](#) starring Senator Roach.
- IV. Distinguished Guests
 - Faculty Regent-Dr. Melony Shemberger
 - Regent Shemberger wished everyone a happy teacher appreciation day. She also thanked all outgoing senators and extended a welcome to new senators. Regent Shemberger indicated that she had no new updates beyond what has been shared via email and that the next board of regents meeting is June 2nd. Senator Powel asked a question about the new student experience fee and its relation to the new esports program. Regent Shemberger indicated that the esports program has already been approved by the board and information is publicly available. Senator Powel indicated that the proposed \$1.1 million budget seemed high and that he has heard faculty and student concerns.
- V. Faculty Senate Mission and Governance Structure
 - Senate president Roach presented an overview of the faculty senate mission and governance structure (see powerpoint slides posted on canvas). He noted a recent policy success regarding how COLA is distributed that was initiated by the faculty senate. He shared governance organizational map was shared with the senate.



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President Roach indicated that he wants to get more input from faculty senators regarding policy priorities. He then provided an overview of the standing rules of the senate with an emphasis on motion types (e.g., faculty senate motions, special faculty senate resolutions, faculty senate resolution, faculty senate handbook revision).

VI. Faculty Senate Executive Agenda

- President Roach indicated that he would not make lengthy remarks for the sake of time. He noted that he has an agenda and plan for the Senate and that we all do. He followed that he wants us to work together to get things done. President Roach also stressed the importance of working on resolutions in committees to refine them before bringing them before the full senate.

VII. Faculty Senate Appointments

- Ben Post was appointed as interim chair of the handbook and personnel subcommittee by President Roach.

VIII. Reports --- Faculty Senate Standing Committees

- Academic Policies – Senator Brian Bourke
 - a. Senator Bourke provided a brief overview of the Academic Policies subcommittee. He then updated the senate regarding FSH-22-23-5 and noted that more work was needed on the resolution before being re-introduced to the full senate.
 - b. Draft FSH-22-23-5: Promotion of Non-tenured Track Faculty. Not currently pending in the Senate. It was referred back to Academic Policies in a previous meeting.
- Finance – Senator Jan Super
 - a. Senator Super provided a brief overview of the Finance subcommittee. She then provided a summary of the 2022 Faculty Engagement Survey (see report on canvas) with an emphasis on overall findings and findings by academic college. She acknowledged that limitations of the survey include lack of external benchmarks, although future surveys would allow for trend analysis. Senator Super also provided an overview of qualitative comments with an emphasis on concerns regarding organizational culture. Senator Foote asked why the College of Humanities and Fine Arts (CHFA) had the lowest morale. Senator Super indicated that the survey did not collect specific information regarding specific causes of the differences. Senator Super indicated that we need to focus on increasing faculty participation in future surveys. Senator Foote also noted that it has been several years since faculty have completed evaluations of administrators. Vice President Ortega indicated that she believes that administrator review is on a three-year cycle, and that she will look into when the next evaluation will occur. Senator Pizzo thanked Senator Super for her work on the survey. President Roach request

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unanimous consent to send the survey results to the full faculty and administrators. Senator Pizzo seconded. The floor motion passed with 17 yes votes , zero no votes and an indeterminate number of abstentions. Technical problems interfered with the full counting of votes from Senators attending via Zoom, but no objection or concern was noted regarding the announced result.

- b. Executive Summary of the 2022 Faculty Engagement Survey. The report is available on Canvas.
- Governmental Affairs – Secretary of the Senate, Michael Bordieri
 - a. Senator Bordieri provided a summary of the national political climate regarding higher education and indicated that we should be prepared to engaged in increased advocacy during the next legislative session. Senator Bordieri also stated that we had good relationships with our local lawmakers, and that we also want to strengthen those relationships during the upcoming year.
- Handbook and Personnel – Senator Ben Post
 - a. Senator Post provided an overview of the handbook and personnel subcommittee. He noted that they are currently working on finalizing minor formatting changes to bring to the board of regents over the summer. The plan for fall includes coordinating with the academic policies subcommittee regarding the clinical faculty promotion policy, revisiting the open access policy discussed during the previous Senate term, and exploring other areas of policy revision. Senator Yarali stated that he has some concerns about the way we promote and give tenure, and he asked which committee would be best to address his concerns. President Roach indicated that all committees are open to take on any topic that interests them, but that the academic policy and handbook and personnel subcommittees seem most appropriate. Senator Foote asked how long would it take for a clinical faculty promotion policy to be implemented. Senator Post indicated that it could be moved forward to the full senate early in the next academic year, with a possible goal of going to the board of regents by June of 2024 (though that date is not fixed).
- Rules, Elections and Bylaws – Faculty Senate Vice President, Heidi Ortega
 - a. Results of the Shared Governance Election
 - i. Vice President Ortega provided a brief overview of the subcommittee and briefly discussed the membership requirements for all senate subcommittees. Senator Ortega also stressed the importance of all departments electing department senators and not filling senate seats by chair/administrator appointment.

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- ii. Senator Ortega indicated there were a limited number of nominations for at-large senators and that all were elected by acclamation. She stated that the subcommittee received 3 nominations for 5 at large seats. Senator Ortega stressed the importance of getting more nominations in future years. Senator Ortega also indicated that the committee is still waiting to be notified of the new faculty Senators from the Military Science and Music departments.
 - Executive – Faculty Senate President, David Roach
 - a. President Roach provided a brief overview of the role of the executive committee.
- IX. Stephen B. White Shared Governance Award Vote
 - Nominees for the 2023 award were announced in a separate communication by Vice President Ortega. The nominees were Randal Keller, Joe DeBella, and Scott Lewis. A secret ballot election was held. The election was overseen by Vice President Ortega and the results will be announced by the rules, election, and bylaws subcommittee at a future date.
- X. Faculty Senate Elections
 - Faculty Senate Representatives to the Academic Council (3-positions, 2-year term)
 - A. Nominations were accepted from the floor: Jeff Henry, Jenilee Williams, Brian Bourke, & Abdul Yarali were nominated. Jeff Henry, Jenilee Williams, and Brian Bourke were elected by secret ballot.
 - At-large Faculty Senate Executive Committee members (3-positions, 1-year term)
 - A. Nominations were accepted from the floor: Brenda Reeves, Paul Foote, Eran Guse, and David Pizzo were nominated. Paul Foote, Brenda Reeves, and David Pizzo were elected by secret ballot.
 - University Assessment Committee (1-position, 3-year term)
 - A. Nominations were accepted from the floor. Jeremy Phillips was nominated but was not present to accept. Jeremy Phillips was elected by acclamation.
 - University Parking Committee (1-position, 3-year term)
 - A. Nominations were accepted from the floor. Thomas Powell was nominated. Thomas Powell was elected by Acclamation.
- XI. University Budget Advisory Committee (1-position, 3-year term)
 - Nominations were accepted from the floor. Abdul Yarali and Eran Guse were nominated. Eran Guse was elected by secret ballot.
- XII. Other University Committees
 - Insurance and Benefits.
 - a. Senator Pizzo reported that a flexible work policy staff is now under consideration by the board of regents. He stated that a faculty policy remains in discussion.

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- The University Budget Advisory Committee
 - a. Senator Pizzo provided an overview of the budget advisory committee and a brief summary of the budget presented at the April University budget townhall.
- XIII. Special Guest: Andrew Dowdy, Director of the University Bookstore
 - Director Dowdy addressed the senate regarding recent trends in the textbook industry. He stated that we are seeing a much bigger push from publishers to go digital and that the used textbook market is drying up considerably. He also stated that he believes that Pearson will not be releasing print editions moving forward, and while other publishers are not forcing it yet, he sees a transition coming. Director Dowdy provided an overview of inclusive access programs, which include student eBook access and access to additional courseware materials. He stated that prices on digital texts are currently much less expensive than traditional print textbook. He reported that Murray State had approximately 5,000 students enrolled in inclusive access courses across 300 sections this Spring, and that approximately 500 course sections will have inclusive access in Fall 2023. Director Dowdy also reported that it may not be possible to obtain print books in the future, and that faculty may need to start using inclusive access. Senator Powell asked about books available from the library. Director Dowdy indicated that ebooks available through the library will not be sold as ebooks by the bookstore, since they are available to students for free. A Senator asked about instructor choice to not use inclusive access. Director Dowdy indicated that instructors have that choice. Senator Yarali noted that some schools provide textbooks to students for free. Director Dowdy indicated that schools that do this often have large endowments, book fees, or tuition increases to cover the costs.
- XIV. New Business
 - None
- XV. Adjourn
 - A unanimous consent motion to adjourn was made at approximately 4:55pm and senators then briefly meet with their subcommittees to plan for the upcoming academic year.