

## **Executive Committee Minutes**

*Tuesday, September 6, 2022, 3:00 pm*

*Approved: September 13, 2022*

### **Call to Order: 3:00 pm**

#### **Roll Call:**

Adam Rechs, Amber Gonzalez, Andera Terry, David Moore, De-Laine Cyrenne, Frank Lilly (absent), Harry Theodorides, Jeff Wilson, Kristen Van Gaasbeck, Matthew Krauel, Nataly Andrade-Dominguez, Raul Tadle, Susan Perez

#### **Open Forum:**

**Heat concerns:** It was expressed that members of the GSPC requested info on the heat this week and at what the campus thermostats are set at. How do power outages affect students in class, elevators, etc.? The Provost pointed to a recent Provost Sac Send. Whether internal or external, there would more than likely a delay in being able to respond. It was suggested that a webpage be established. Is the Emergency Notification System supposed to provide notification messages and provide direction? Administration is meeting to address the questions and discuss scenarios.

It was suggested that faculty be reminded to plan ahead for academic disruptions. Perhaps send a temperature to guide faculty of when it is best to cancel class? VP Hendricks responded to a question about how a power outage affects the internet by stating that if power goes out longer than a few minutes there would be a disconnect and WIFI hot spots probably would go down.

It was asked if there was a committee to refer this to in order to have a plan in extreme weather for what to do in those cases. The Chair stated that typically this would come from Risk Management. This item was added to the end of the agenda as a discussion item titled: Academic Contingency Plan for Extreme Weather.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Approved with amendments. Approved as amended.

**Minutes:** The minutes of May 3, May 17, August 9 and August 20, 2022: Approved.

**From the Chair:** A proposal from FACS Department to split will be on the September 13 agenda.

**From the Provost:** A follow-up about instructional modalities in light of the extreme heat. In his message to faculty today he wrote that we should stay true to the published modalities. Faculty should talk with Deans if they wish to change a modality. Faculty should be aware that some students may need accommodations.

**Policies:** Professor Gonzalez felt the Policy on Administrative Appointments (brought forward by FPC) was not Senate-Ready: Specifically, there is ableist language (Line 11: "either oral or written")

and binary pronouns. Professor Sheppard asked a question and voiced some concern about the selection of student and faculty representatives in sections E and F (lines 323 and 324). FPC Chair Cyrenne explained that FPC didn't review some areas as their focus was only on the items they were asked to address, and advocated for moving forward with the amendments with a separate discussion to change the gender neutrality of all campus policies.

Motion #1: A motion was made and carried to find and replace all binary pronouns throughout the Administrative Appointment policy document. The Chair stated that he would take care of that.

Motion #2: A motion was made and carried to send the policy amendment proposal back to FPC to address the question of why students wouldn't be involved in F or E, what is the role of the Faculty Senate in section F, and to address any ableist language.

### **Discussion: Academic Contingency Plan for Extreme Weather**

The Provost asked if there is already a group working on this? Should it start with the faculty and move to him. There is a committee with broad representation including Risk Management, Police, faculty, etc.

- Professor Cyrenne stated that she remembered talking in Senate meetings years ago of contingency plans for the fire and COVID with talk of coming up with plans. Do we not have anything?
- Dean Hammersley listed in chat a link to the campus Academic Continuity Plan.
- Chief of Staff Billingsley shared a link to the Campus Business Continuity Plan and explained the process by which the President confers with health agencies, and appropriate stakeholders to assess what should be done in situations that might result in a disruption in the campus.
- Director Peigahi shared that the Critical Response Team meets weekly to discuss ongoing disruptions.
- Academic Senator Van Gaasbeck shared that there is a system-wide directive from the CO sent to the President, Provost and VP Students (summer 2021) that deals with continuity plans.
- It might be beneficial to understand if we are talking about short-term and/or long-term disruptions.
- CFA President stated that faculty have reached out to CFA regarding changes in modalities and that there is a university policy that faculty can turn to. Faculty have also reached out to CFA about being ill due to the extreme heat.
- No motion was made. The Chair suggested that members of the committee read the current Academic Continuity Plan to determine if it is meeting our needs.

Members provided the Provost with questions likely to be asked during the Q&A at the next Senate meeting. These questions were:

- At what point are we permitted to suspend classes if the heat is an issues? Is there a particular temperature that is a threshold for suspending classes?
- On the continuity plan, do faculty have the ability to shift modalities? How is this done?
- What was done on campus for other heat waves in the past?
- If the university faces a campus interruption, how much resources does the campus have set aside to deal with that?

Additionally, the following points were made:

- While historical protocols are important, we should not rely on them for how to move forward given the leaps in technology.
- It is recommended that faculty make use of CTL to incorporate best practices for dealing with disruptions of their courses.
- We should not rely on a one-size-fits-all, and instead should be looking at solutions that are flexible and broad.

Adjourned: 4:37 pm