

Executive Committee Minutes*Tuesday, April 30, 2024, 3:00 pm**Approved: September 10, 2024***Call to Order:** 3:01 pm**Roll Call:**

Adam Rechs, Aleta Baldwin, Sharon Furtak, Amber Gonzalez, Andrea Terry, Bertha Vegas Castellanos, David Moore (absent), Jeff Wilson, Matthew Krauel, Monicka Tutschka, Raul Tadle, Tracy Dawn Hamilton

Open Forum:

Administration of Scholarships on campus. A member stated that the Scholarship Office has been less than willing to make accommodations or adjustments for departments regarding scholarships deadlines and data obtain from students. The number of applications has been reduced, boiler plate questions imposed for the university (particularly the graduate programs), and timelines are very rigid. The Scholarships Office has very little flexibility. Their response is to update scholarship specs but it is a problem with the process. The number of applications have gone down rather than up. It was requested that the scholarships process be returned to the departments as they were in the past. There is money to award but it is not being awarded because of the barriers from the Scholarship Office.

Chief of Staff Tudor stated that the President is giving close attention to this and that University Advancement is working hard to improve the scholarship process. Anything people would like to share with University Advancement and the scholarship team will help them to overcome barriers. The item was added to the agenda.

Campus Housing: Concern was expressed by a guest regarding affordability of housing for incoming faculty. The campus offers housing to new faculty but the cost is approximately 50% of the faculty members take home pay. Having someone pay 50% of their pay will not help to transition to permanent housing. The Provost stated that housing prices continue to rise. A housing marking assessment was done by a hired vendor and it was found that the University offers housing priced 10% below market value. It is a real issue. It was requested that the conversation continues.

Student Protests Encampment: A update was requested. Chief of Staff Tudor stated the students in the encampment in the Library quad are currently adhering to the Time, Place and Manner Restrictions on Speech and Speech-Related Activities policy. The students are in open communication with the administration and are peaceful. Students are being provided with water, porta-pottys, and protective fencing. It was noted that expression and encampments can be triggering to others on campus and the goal is to be respectful to everyone. The President received a list of demands from the students.

For commencement, student speakers speeches will be prerecorded. The deans were advised today and will be notifying their student speakers. It was requested that the deans be allow to notify

their students first. The Senate Chair asked that Exec allow for the information be disseminated to the students by the deans.

Approval of the Agenda: The agenda was amended to add a discussion of scholarships at the end of the agenda. The agenda as amended was approved.

Approval of the Minutes – April 23, 2024: The minutes were amended to correct the spelling of a member's name and add (at line 72) additional details about the discussion item of using forms to fill committee vacancies. The agenda as amended was approved.

From the Chair: No items,

From the Provost: The Executive Committee members were thanked for their work.

Extension request: Workgroup on Student Teaching Evaluations: The workgroup chair, Amber Gonzalez, requested an additional semester for the workgroup to complete their work. The additional time will allow the workgroup to work on a proposal to create a new Senate committee for student evaluations of teaching and to look at all things that fall under the teaching umbrellas. The membership would be filled from the Senate's Annual Preference Poll. Clarification was requested if the committee would be devoted to student evaluations of teaching? If so, then the committee would be given a charge, membership criteria, etc. It was asked if an ASI representative would be part of the membership? The Chair stated that if students are interested in serving on a committee they need to speak directly with the ASI Board, who is responsible for appointing students to committees.

A motion was made and carried to extend the workgroup's work one semester, Fall 2024, for the purpose of creating a charge and suggested the workgroup also look at other Senate committees focused on the use of student evaluations of teaching. Approved.

May 2 Senate Agenda: GSPC Chair Krauel requested the Credit Hour Policy be moved up under the Second Reading items. The policy has been on the Senate agenda since Spring 2023. The Senate Chair stated that he has heard concerns about policy items on the agenda not being moved up.

The FPC Chair requested time to refine the Policy on Re-Organization or Moving of Academic Units and Programs to implement the suggested amendment and for consultation with the current administration. A motion would be made at the May 2 Senate meeting to refer the policy back to FPC.

Motion to move the Credit Hour policy to directly follow the Policy on Re-Organization or Moving of Academic Units and Programs. Carried.

Scholarships: Vice President Jenni Murphy stated that a dramatic turnover and lack of staffing and has made the scholarship process a bit challenging. She would love to sit and go over processes, address equity concerns, see the user experience of the faculty and/or staff of this process, and answer any questions. This is on the President's radar and also on the Strategic Plan. There is currently an administrative group working on this – buckets of challenges: Are the scholarships awardable, what are the processes, timeline, form, how do student know scholarships are available, what are the faculty, dept. colleges structures.

It was suggested that a student and faculty person be added to the group working on this. VP Murphy replied it would be possible and would be happy to bring back to Exec what the taskforce looks like, etc.

Vice Provost, David Zeigler: The topic of scholarships has come up with the Administrative Barriers Taskforce, which will be meeting monthly over the summer. Happy to meet with Professor Dym or anyone else to present to the team.

It was shared that a new law eliminates displacement of aid for students, which will hopefully help our students receiving scholarships.

Adjournment: 4:03 pm