

Executive Committee Minutes

Tuesday, October 8, 2024, 3:00 pm,

Approved: October 15, 2024

Roll Call:

Martin Boston, Sharon Furtak, Hogan Hayes, Carolyn Gibbs, Amber Gonzalez, Sheree Meyer, Pat Oberle, Adam Rechts, Andrea Terry, Matthew Krauel, Raul Tadle

Call to Order: 3:00 pm

Open Forum:

Syllabus guidance on AI : Concern was expressed about the National Institute on Artificial Intelligence in Society Sac State Center including policy recommendations for syllabi on their website, specifically a recommended AI statement that guides students to AI bots for counseling. The Open Forum item was added to the agenda.

The Chair mentioned that there is a Sac State syllabus policy. All recommendations to change syllabi language should go through our policy amendment processes.

Black Honors College: Dean of Students and Chief Administrative Officer Dr. Boatamo Ati Mosupyoe expressed her concern to the Executive Committee regarding its continued focus on BHC, communicating that our BHC students are hearing about this. Members of the college and the BHC Advisory Board were present in support of her statement. She also shared an update including the fact that 80 students were admitted for Fall 2024.

Graduation Application Fee Increase: Concern was raised regarding the lack of communication around the graduation fee increase from \$76.50 to \$115.

Chief of Staff Tudor shared that the fee was increased over the summer (effective this semester) when faculty were away from campus. However, the appropriate webpage was updated. Chief of Staff Tudor responded that messaging would be sent out to ensure department chairs, faculty, and student advisers are aware of the increase including the reasons for the increase. She further summarized that the fee had not been raised for many years and will cover the cost of ordering and delivering customized diplomas and would reverse the continued deficits resulting from increasing graduation event costs.

Approval of the Agenda: The agenda was amended to add Syllabus guidance on AI following item #13. The agenda was approved.

Minutes: October 1, 2024: Approved as published.

From the Chair:

- Vice Chair Rechs will convene the October 15 meeting.
- CODE is taking up Professor Stark's Open Forum item regarding when to add Land and Black Labor Acknowledgements to our meeting agendas. They will propose recommendations for the Faculty Senate.
- A&L Deans Search: The search will continue. The language in the Policy on Administrative Appointments will be amended to provide future clarification on search processes.
- At a recent President/Senate Chair meeting, President Wood shared his preference for how to begin the process for updating the Statement on Shared Governance. We will begin with a very small work group.

From the Provost: The Annual Budget Town Hall will be held on Wed, October 16, 3-5 pm via Zoom and presented by the Division of Academic Affairs and the Budget Planning and Administration Office.

From the President: Three advisory groups have been established: Co-Curricular Initiatives, Athletic Facilities and Conferences, and Sacramento State's Regional Footprint.

Draft October 17 Senate agenda: Approved

Commendation and Thanks Motion: The item will be placed on the Nov. 7 Senate agenda on Consent Action.

Discussion: AI and Academic Freedom Policy and referral to GSPC: The referral is for GSPC to explore the current policy and needs without concern that the Senate Executive committee is opposed to that work.

Main Points from the Discussion

- Concern was raised over the number of AI-specific policies coming out of standing policy committees. Can we consider one policy requiring departments to have AI policies?
- A question was raised about whether it is more effective to amend the existing policy on culminating experience.
- It was noted that there is no policy with culminating experience in engaging with your co-instructors. GSPC wants to explore with AI as a conversation.

Motion: Refer to GSPC to explore the usefulness of creating or updating policy surrounding AI and culminating experiences and teaching among graduate students. GSPC will report back to the Executive Committee before making significant progress in the creation or updating of policy. *Carried.*

2024-25 Faculty Senate and Executive committee meeting calendar: The Chair shared Michael Nguyen, Interim Chief Diversity Officer, informed her that an advisory group is working on recommendations for the campus regarding the planning of meetings around multifaith holidays. They will have recommendations for the planning of our Senate meetings.

Motion: Postpone discussion until further information from the Advisory Group. *Carried.*

Policy on Academic Freedom and Faculty use of Artificial Intelligence in Research and Teaching: The item will be placed on the November 7 Senate agenda at First Reading.

Syllabus guidance on AI

Main Points from the Discussion

- Concern was expressed about the National Institute on Artificial Intelligence in Society Sac State Center including policy recommendations for syllabi on their website, specifically a recommended AI statement that guides students to AI bots for counseling.
- It was noted and expressed that mental health services are provided on campus for our students and therefore, it is inappropriate to provide official mental health guidance that directs students toward AI bots. It was requested that the AI bot statement of the policy recommendation be removed.
- Concern was expressed that it will be perceived as a recommendation to faculty because of the headings “policy recommendations” and “policy.”
- A request was made to change website headings under Policy to suggestions or recommendations. Dr. Sidorkin agreed to make the change.
- Concern was raised that some of these types of “recommendations” are being required by subcommittees going through curriculum review. Recommendations and guidelines are being mistaken for policy.

Motion: Exec requests the President’s Office ensure that the counseling services on campus have been consulted on all counseling service statements used in course syllabi recommended by other Sac State entities. *Carried.*

AITC Referral: Refer to AITC the work of delineating websites that espouse official university position vs. those that appear not to in regard to the World Wide Web policy and the Policy on Creation of and Oversight of Centers. *Carried.*

Planning for a Discovery College: The Chair of GE/GRPC presented the item and requested the Senate provide four faculty members to serve on the working group. The Senate Office will send out a call for nominations.

Motion: Planning for a Discovery College will be placed on the November 7 Senate Agenda as an Information Item. *Carried.*

Institutional Biosafety Policy: The item will be placed on the Nov. 7 Senate Agenda at First Reading.

Adjourned: 4:58 pm