

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 27, 2025
3:30-5:00 pm Hubbard Hall 211

Attendance

Amos, Asmatulu, Billingham, Bowen, Boynton, Bussard, Butler, Celestin, Cooper, Cossell, Delacruz, Dowling, Dudley, Foster, Gilstrap, Hulett, Jamkartanian, Jarman, Kirby, Kuhlman, Li, Loibl, Lynch, Ma, Marble-Flint, Moody, Moscoso, Muether, Myose, Nelson, Nicks, Ott, Price, Rai, Ray, Ross, Sherif, Sherwood, Showstack, Sterrett, Stone, Sun, Tew, Thompson N., Thompson, V., Williams, Zhu.

Excused: Figy, Pang, Proctor, Small.

Absent: Gregory, Markova..

Call to Order ([Meeting Slide Deck](#))

- Vice-President Sherif at 3:31 pm

Approval of Minutes

- [January 13, 2025](#) – passed unanimously as submitted

Informal Statements

- None

President's Report

- Reminder that Faculty of the Year (FOTY) Award nominations are due January 31.
- Minor updates have been made to policy [11.20](#), Space Heater policy.
- KBOR Update – Met on 1/15/25. Highlights include
 - HLC's reduced-credit bachelor's programs to 90 CH – no current proposals have been submitted. FS Exec will evaluate this initiative further.
 - Kansas has joined Complete College America (CCA). Will be events on 2/11 during KBOR's site visit to Washburn University.
 - The draft proposal and presentation for University Tuition Assistance Program (UTAP) were shared. More info in New Business.
 - The request to add NTT to the FOTY award is moving its way through KBOR committees, favorable so far.

Committee Reports

- None

Old Business

- None

New Business

- ABA Masters Program Introduction – Dr. Angela Beeler –
 - The program has 36 CH (9 are new CH); rationale for the degree – to become board certified must have a master's degree; since we haven't had this degree, have been losing students. Also provides another path for students to move

towards an EdS certificate. Market analysis found 80% of current students would come back for the ABA master's degree; outside the university the ABA is a growing profession with anticipated need for programs. Faculty resources – will need to hire some adjuncts for a few courses; other courses are already taught and won't require additional faculty.

- [8.22](#) - Excused Absences for Students Policy – President Muether
 - Reviewed highlights of the policy. Seeking Faculty Senate (FS) feedback on several yellow highlighted areas – p. 2, C – timing of request; p. 3, E and F; FS Executive Committee will ask FS Academic Affairs to review and give feedback. Senator Q&A/comments:
 - Billingham – verified Student Affairs motivation for requesting this policy – some is related to student persistence.
 - Bowen – timing – why now?
 - Boynton – this seems to infringe on instructors' syllabus policy.
 - Thompson – recommends further time for senators to review. For example, how does this interplay with things like accommodations or if a test was given.
 - Sterrett – recommends careful review.
 - Rai - Why fix if not broke?
 - Williams – faculty verifying absence documentation – this is a slippery slope and could infringe on HIPAA if the absence is medical.
- Unified Tuition Assistance Program (UTAP) Discussion – President Muether
 - [Draft proposal](#) and PPT [presentation](#) shared. Received some initial positive feedback from KBOR; KBOR asked for some further information on how many people anticipated using the policy and costs. Some clarifying information included
 - Taking courses at a different KBOR institution than where employed would depend on the program needed not being offered at the home institution.
 - COFSPs are working on more detailed information which will be sent out to faculty across the Regents institutions for feedback.
 - Please direct any feedback to President Muether.
 - Comments
 - Thompson – question to clarify whether taking courses at a different institution may compete with other home programs. And who vets whether a program is the same – for example, despite having different names and/or slightly different content will someone or a committee review to ensure that programs don't experience loss of students due to this program. President Muether shared that we are in the very early stages, lots of things to review and consider still; likely pilot before full implementation to try and tweak out any issues.
 - Billingham – significant improvement and likely useful for many faculty and staff, but more importantly for their dependents; could be a recruitment/retention benefit.
 - Bowen – positive feedback; consideration that some specialized degrees

aren't offered in Kansas at all – is there any plan to expand this beyond Regents schools in KS? President Muether shared that the current proposal focuses on Kansas schools and is a starting point for now.

- Sherif – when can faculty expect to receive the survey for this? Mat – COFSPs are working on the survey now, being finalized, hoping for end of this week or early next week. It will go to faculty and staff.
- Sterrett – shared an option to offer course release time instead of tuition assistance.

As May Arise

- Myose – sabbatical is available for tenure track and tenured faculty, maybe consider extending this to NTT.
 - Rai – is there any info on sabbatical at other institutions?
- Price – lot going on in the news; consider host a town hall for Q&A, university plans, etc.
 - Thompson – recently at a conference, lots of faculty across the country have questions and concerns.
 - Showstack – appreciates being proactive – recommends more than one meeting/town hall.
 - Price – are parallel conversations happening at other Regents schools such as with COFSPs? President Muether is unsure but will reach out to COFSPs.
 - President Muether has heard from several faculty re: White House Executive Orders – lots of confusion and fear. Supports strong communication – working with Staff and Student Senates to put something together to share info with the university and stakeholders across campus. Everyone is welcome to send questions or concerns to President Muether.

Adjourn

- Next meeting is February 10, 2025, at 3:30 pm in Hubbard Hall 211.
- Vice-President Sherif adjourned the meeting at 4:44 pm.

Minutes prepared by Rhonda Williams