



FACULTY SENATE

Meeting Minutes

November 7, 2022

Senators Present: Ann Abraham, Bob Antenucci, Omid Bagheri, Tina Bhargava, Jeffrey Child, Lauren Copeland, Jennifer Cunningham, , Omar De La Cruz Cabrera, Kimberly DePaul, Tracy Dodson, Yanhai Du, Julie Evey, Claudia Gomez, Angela Guercio, David Kaplan, Edgar Kooijman, Darci Kracht, Cynthia Kristof, Velvet Landingham, Tracy Laux, Cathy Marshall, Karen Mascolo, Denise McEnroe-Petitte, Mahli Piontkivska, Lydia Rose, Susan Roxburgh, Athena Salaba, Deborah Smith, Diane Stroup, Eric Taylor, Laurie Wagner, Theresa Walton-Fisette, Robin Vande Zande, Sue Wamsley, Christopher Was, Melissa Zullo

Senators Not Present: Ed Dauterich, Vanessa Earp, Todd Hawley, Janice Kroeger, Murali Shanker

Ex-Officio Members Present: Senior Vice Presidents: Lamar Hylton, Mark Polatajko; Vice Presidents: Sean Broghammer, Doug Delahanty*, Amoaba Gooden, Tiffany Murray*, John Rathje, Charlene Reed, Peggy Shadduck, Stephen Ward; Deans: Sonia Alemagno, Christina Bloebaum, Allan Boike, Ken Burhanna (represented by Robinson), James Hannon, Versie Johnson-Mallard, Mark Mistur, Mandy Munro-Stasiuk (represented by Dee Warren), Diane Petrella, Eboni Pringle, Alison Smith, Deborah Spake, Manfred van Dulmen (represented by Christa Porter) ***Interim**

Ex-Officio Members Not Present: President Todd Diacon, Senior Vice President and Provost Melody Tankersley, Senior Vice President Lamar Hylton, Vice President Vargo, Vice President Willis Walker, Dean Amy Reynolds

Observers Present: Victoria Akinkuolie (GSS)

Observers Not Present: Paul Farrell (Emeritus Professor), Seth Young (USG)

Guests Present: Sarah Malcolm

1. Call to Order

Chair Laux called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.m. in the Governance Chambers, Kent Student Center. Attendees were also present on Microsoft Teams.

2. Roll Call Senator Piccirillo-Smith called the roll.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Chair Laux then asked for a motion to approve the amended agenda. A motion was made and seconded (Smith/Vande Zande). The agenda was approved unanimously.

4. Approval of the Faculty Senate Minutes of October 10, 2022

Chair Laux asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 10, 2022, Faculty Senate meeting. A motion was made and seconded (Smith/Kracht).

The minutes were approved unanimously as written.

5. Chair's remarks: Chair Laux explained that President Diacon and Provost Tankersley could not attend today's meeting as they are both away from campus on University business. Chair Laux presented information on the Educational Policies Council. Curricular proposals from every academic unit are submitted, and those submissions are investigated and deliberated upon by a dedicated group. Although faculty from each of the academic colleges are represented on EPC, he said that it would be insane to expect detailed expertise in every curricular area of our complex university.

He added that his remarks today are not to instigate action at this meeting as how to implement his suggested improvements but to let everyone know that those improvements are on their way. Again, having the attention of so many at the Senate meetings is invaluable. His remarks will be directed to Senators as well as Deans, Chairs and Directors in regards to EPC issues. As chair of Senate, to guarantee that the voice of faculty is heard, especially regarding the responsibilities of EPC, he sees the opportunity for these few improvements. First, the process needs to include evidence that is provided to appropriate faculty bodies. Usually, that would mean each academic unit's required curricular committee has been consulted and has approved the proposal, or if the body has denied the proposal, evidence that they have been provided the reasons for the proposal's continuation by the academic unit's administrator. The evidence could be as simple as an addition of a checkmark and a date on which the unit's curricular committee approved the proposal. Lacking that evidence, he suggested that EPC members vote against any submitted proposal, unless there's evidence of the appropriate consultation with the curricular bodies of the academic unit.

Secondly, to ensure that each academic unit has an opportunity to appropriately address any encroachment concerns, we need a process that includes the opportunity for academic unit administrators and the curricular bodies to be informed in a timely manner of all proposals submitted to EPC; there is such a manner to do this. He added that he would like to see a process which includes either providing each detailed EPC agenda to all curricular bodies, or access to those agendas.

Maybe this is already being done or it is possible that it's just not being utilized by the chairs of the curricular advisory bodies. If that's the case, then those faculty members need to fulfill their responsibilities. I look forward to further discussions with Provost Tankersley, EPC Chair Ed Dauterich, and others regarding those two issues.

6. President's remarks: (President Diacon and Provost Tankersely were unavailable to speak at today's meeting.)

7. EPC Action Items:

- College of Arts & Sciences School of Peace and Conflict Studies (presented by School Director Neil Cooper): Establish major in-person on Kent Campus with two concentrations: Applied Conflict Transformation; and Peace, Conflict and Development (fall 2023 pending final approvals).

Dr. Cooper explained that this proposal follows discussions in the school about the need for a standalone MA in Peace and Conflict Studies and the sense that many programs in the field actually recruit better at the master's level than they do at the undergraduate level. It also emerged through a kind of long process of collective discussion amongst all the faculty. The process of creating the MA has taken a good amount of time and has gone through various iterations. The development of the program was informed by three eminent advisors and by a market analysis. A program such as this that has to do with peace and conflict is a very timely one. These issues have risen to the top of the political agenda in a way that has not been seen since the end of the Cold War. We are planning for the delivery of practical praxis courses which represents a unique feature of this program. There will be courses on leadership and peaceful change among others.

The two concentrations within the overarching program are specifically designed to reflect different aspects of the field of Peace and Conflict Studies, and these appeal to different cohorts of students. The first concentration is Applied Conflict Transformation, which has the acronym of ACT. ACT concentrates more on the domestic dynamics of peace and conflict, focusing on questions of peace and conflict in organizations, for instance, and in communities. We anticipate that this will be a concentration that might appeal more to students who are coming to us from the local area or nationally within the US.

In contrast, the concentration in Peace, Conflict and Development is designed to focus on peace and conflict dynamics in fragile societies and the global society and as such it picks up on post-Cold War policy concerns with the relationship between conflict, security, and development in the global society.

At the same time, while we've tried to make each concentration distinct and different and to ensure that it appeals to different market segments, we've also endeavored to strike a balance between offering those distinctive concentrations, but also providing common foundations for work in the field. There are common courses on the foundations of peace and conflict studies on negotiation.

There are a number of programs that address this field in Europe but this is not the case in the U.S., so it is believed that this concentration will help to fill that gap. There are common courses on the foundations of peace and conflict studies and on negotiations. In Ohio, we only found two programs that were cognates. The first is at Ohio University where there is an MA in War

and Peace Studies. The second is at the University of Toledo that offers a certificate in the foundations of peace education. There is an urgent need for programs such as this, and it helps us 'plug a gap' in our programming and fills a gap in what is offered in Ohio.

Senator Roxburgh moved to approve the motion.

Senator VandeZande asked how will the MA students be better prepared than from other programs at the undergraduate level?

Dr. Cooper suggested that people hiring are looking for more education in this field . He also thinks the praxis portion of the program will appeal to employers. One aspect of the job analysis was to identify the number of job advertisements for this field. The analysis saw an increase. The praxis courses are the ones that set the program apart from undergraduate courses. The capstone is a 6-hour practicum so that students will have a lot more experience in the field. It was designed to give a sense of focus and to give students knowledge plus skills in order for students to get jobs through these organizations. One of the recurring surveys about the field is that the field needs to do more to provide praxis training in the field; this is exactly what the program is providing.

The motion to approve passed unanimously.

- **University College** (presented by Dean Eboni Pringle): Revise course number, title, description, schedule type, grade rule, content and learning outcomes for the First Year Experience course (fall 2023).

As Dean Pringle explained, the First Year Experience course was last revised in 2009. In 2017, a small group was charged by President Warren with a review of the course to enhance students' experience. The 2016 climate survey indicated that a sense of belonging could be enhanced. The climate survey defined students most at risk as Black, Hispanic and Multi-racial students, students with disabilities, students with financial challenges, and students who are first generation college students. The committee worked with faculty, staff and students to identify opportunities to address this finding. The new curriculum has been designed to foster a university wide sense of belonging, articulate how students can contribute to the community, and clarify their purpose. This is evidenced in the five learning outcomes outlined in the proposal. These learning outcomes are expected to facilitate group learning. The Center for Teaching and Learning has agreed to help facilitate the process of creating this revision.

A motion to approve the proposal was made by Senator Smith.

Senator Roxburgh commented that faculty are not permitted to bank FYE hours. In the past, people would teach the course and could bank the credits so that they can then have a course reduction.

Dean Pringle responded that one of the things they have discussed is to ask Deans making decisions about faculty teaching to allow faculty to have input into the ways that the course would be enacted.

Senator Kooijman expressed a concern that this revision seems more general than those that had targeted a specific discipline. He asked if this approach was still possible.

Dean Pringle responded that they have put a lot of thought into what has been in the course over the last few years. One example is students being unable to navigate the GPS; they are considering how to improve the presentation of this information through videos, modules, etc. that students can access at the time that they need them.

Senator Bagheri asked how regional campuses were involved in the changes being made. He also wondered how the changes would impact regional campuses. Dean Pringle said that across all 8 campuses, faculty, students, and staff have been included in the process. They have also piloted a class on Stark campus, and the instructor who taught the course thinks that it will work well on regional campuses.

Senators voted unanimously in favor of the revision to First Year Experience course.

8. Old Business: Academic Visitor Policy presented by Executive Director Sarah Malcolm. This proposal was tabled at our Sept. 12, 2022 meeting. There needed to be clarification of the 'host' for academic visits as well as the definition of visitors.

Senator Smith moved that we return the item to the table. Senator Kracht seconded. The vote to remove the tabling was unanimous. Since the tabling has been removed, discussion was able to move forward.

Sarah Malcolm discussed the changes; they removed the wording related to the host being faculty. C1 and C2 deleted the need for visiting scholars to be employed elsewhere. They added and revised C4 and C5 host responsibilities and differentiated between the host unit versus faculty host. Other changes that were added had to do with the faculty member (host) being responsible for informing the Office of Global Education when the visitor completes the program and has left the country.

Dean Bloebaum asked about who was responsible for compliance with university policies and procedures and federal rules and regulations.

Sarah Malcolm explained that the unit is responsible for the visitor.

Dean Bloebaum asked whether the 'unit' meant 'the Dean'.

Chair Laux asked for clarification of the legal obligation for misdeeds of the visitor. Would those fall to the dean?

Sarah Malcolm clarified that OGE is only responsible for infractions that were committed by a visitor on an J1 visa.

Senator Salaba asked for a clarification of section C 2b.

Sarah explained that OGE will do the background check.

Senator Smith offered a clarifying comment. She pointed out a difference between the process itemized in 2C versus 6C. 2 C has been removed. D is the completion of background check which will now be 2 C (that is not part of the letter and the host is not responsible for

that.

Dean Mistur suggested a workflow that would help everyone work through a checklist to make sure that we are staying compliant.

Sarah Malcolm explained that there is already a workflow in place that would be applicable to visitors in the J1 program.

Dean Bloebaum clarified that references to 6 C is now 7 C in the revised document.

Senator Salaba agreed that with 7 C there is no confusion.

Senator Smith proposed a friendly amendment to switch the references from 6 C to 7 C before Senate approval.

Chair Laux made a suggestion to deans that they not authorize anything until they approve the process.

Dean Bloebaum explained that in her experience it is the faculty person that has day-to-day contact with the visitor, not the administrator. That is her concern.

Approval of the Academic Visitor Policy was unanimous.

9. New Business: Information Item: Canvas Athletic Academic Observer presented by Dr. Theresa Walton Fisette and Assistant Athletic Director Angie Hull.

Angie used a slide presentation to explain how the process would work to implement a Canvas Observer. Canvas Observer is a way for others to observe who are not enrolled in the course. In athletics, it would be used to monitor student athletes. Students become academically eligible to compete based on their performance in the classroom. Having the Canvas observer would reduce the number of progress reports. It also helps advisors to be more proactive in helping student athletes. It would mostly be used for the grade screen. Canvas allows for customization of access for observers. Angie provided a sample of what this would look like for faculty in Canvas. They did a soft launch with 60 instructors and 13 students. Student athletes were notified about the process. Senator Walton-Fisette wanted to emphasize and support the academic success of student athletes.

Senator Smith asked if faculty would have to agree to do this. By way of example she explained that she does not use Canvas for specific components of her course, so she would not want an observer.

Senator Walton-Fisette suggested that there may be an 'opt out' rather than an 'opt in'.

Senator Mocioalca wanted to make sure that even if instructors use Canvas, they may not put grades in Canvas; therefore, she did not see how it would be beneficial to use Canvas. Senator Mocioalca explained that some grades would appear in Canvas, but others would not. That would give observers an incomplete understanding of the grades for the course.

Senator Walton-Fisette suggested that this may be a good example of an instructor who should opt out.

Senator Antenucci said that he understands the concerns because he also uses external publisher content, but he syncs it with Canvas.

Senator Wamsley asked who the observers would be.

Angie Hull explained that all student athletes have an assigned athletic advisor and that advisor along with learning specialists would be the observers. They would not change once the semester has started. There can be no more than 4 observers for any one student. They currently have three observers for each student. Based on the numbers of athletes and numbers of observers, each observer would have approximately 60 to 70 students.

Senator Wamsley also asked if observers had access to Canvas Inbox.

Senator Walton-Fisette explained that observers would not have access to the Inbox.

Senator Bhargava asked about equity issues for student support. She was wondering if this would open a door to having advisors function as observers in other areas outside of Athletics.

Chair Laux wanted to point out that there is an 'opt out' feature that any faculty member could use.

Senator Walton-Fisette explained that students in risk categories outside of athletics might also benefit from the observer role.

10. Announcements/ Statements for the Record: Chair Laux announced that Thanksgiving break is upon us. He acknowledges that colleagues are canceling Monday and Tuesday classes without a real cause.

We have a reminder that this is the beginning of I AM FIRST Week. There are events happening all week for first generation college students. If anyone needs a t-shirt, laptop sticker or other items, please contact Dean Pringle.

Deb Smith announced that tomorrow is election day and encouraged everyone to vote.

11. Adjournment:

Chair Laux adjourned the meeting at 4:42 p.m.

(Minutes taken by Senator Linda-Piccirillo-Smith and edited by Secretary Ed Dauterich)