Faculty Senate Agenda – September 11, 2023

Item No.	Item	PDF/ Page No.
1.	Call to Order	
2.	Roll Call	
3.	Approval of the Agenda	
4.	Approval of the July 10, 2023 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes	<u>2-11</u>
5.	Chair's Remarks	
6.	Provost's Remarks	
7.	Budget Update from Senior Vice President Mark Polatajko	
8.	CAO (Committee on Academic Officers) Election (voting will be done on paper ballots and tabulated as the meeting progresses)	
9.	Rwanda Update	
10.	Announcements / Statements for the Record	
11.	Adjourn	
	Additional Items: Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes	
	4-26-2023 Executive Committee Meeting	
	5-24-2023 Executive Committee Meeting	<u>12-19</u>
	5-26-2023 Executive Committee Meeting	
	6-20-2023 Executive Committee Meeting	



FACULTY SENATE

Meeting Minutes July 10, 2023

Senators Present: Ann Abraham, Bob Antenucci, Omid Bagheri, Tina Bhargava, Jennifer Cunningham, Mark Dalman, Ed Dauterich, Omar De La Cruz Cabrera, Kimberly DePaul, Vanessa Earp, Julie Evey, Michele Ewing, Michael Fisch, Claudia Gomez, Tianyuan Guan, Angela Guercio, Sean Kennedy, Janice Kroeger, Velvet Landingham, Tracy Laux, Richard Mangrum, Denise McEnroe-Petitte, Mahli Mechenbier, Taraneh Meshkani, Oana Mocioalca, Vic Perera, Amy Petrinec, Linda Piccirillo-Smith, Helen Piontkivska, Susan Roxburgh, Athena Salaba, Jennifer Taber, Eric Taylor, Robin Vande Zande, Laurie Wagner, Theresa Walton-Fisette, Sue Wamsley

Senators Not Present: Lauren Copeland, Michelle Foster, Todd Hawley, Mary Hogue, David Kaplan, Edgar Kooijman, Karen Mascolo, Lydia Rose, Deborah Smith, Christopher Was

Ex-Officio Members Present: President Todd Diacon, Provost Melody Tankersley; Senior Vice President Mark Polatajko; Vice Presidents: Sean Broghammer, Doug Delahanty, Amoaba Gooden, Tiffany Murray*, James Raber for John Rathje, Charlene Reed, David Ochmann for Willis Walker; Deans: Sonia Alemagno, Joycelyn Harrison for Christina Bloebaum, Allan Boike, Ken Burhanna, Alicia Crowe for James Hannon, Versie Johnson-Mallard, Mark Mistur, Deirdre Warren for Mandy Munro-Stasiuk, Diane Petrella, John Jewell for Eboni Pringle, Amy Reynolds, Alison Smith, Deborah Spake, Manfred van Dulmen
*Interim

Ex-Officio Members Not Present: Senior Vice President Lamar Hylton; Vice Presidents: Peggy Shadduck, Valoree Vargo, Stephen Ward; Deans:

Observers Present:

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

Guests Present: Denise Bartell, Brenda Burke, Sue Clement, Chris Dorsten, Kristina Kamis, Michael Kavulic, Valerie Kelly, Dana Lawless-Andric, Aaron Maguire, Jennifer Marcinkiewicz, Shelley Marshall, Andrew Martineau, Tracy Motter, Stina Olafsdottir, Christa Ord, Susan Perry, Dirk Remley, Andrew Shipka, Therese Tillett, Kevin West, Sonya Williams

1. Call to Order

Chair Laux called the meeting to order at 3:21 p.m. in the Governance Chambers, Kent Student Center.

2. Roll Call

Secretary Dauterich called the roll.

3. Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda (Kroeger/Taylor). The agenda passed unanimously.

4. Approval of the Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes of May 8, 2023

Chair Laux asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 8, 2023, Faculty Senate meeting. A motion was made and seconded (Abraham/Landingham).

The minutes were approved unanimously as written.

5. Chair's Remarks

Chair Laux delivered his remarks [attached].

6. President's Remarks

President Diacon expressed gratitude for students being safe after an explosion at the Paris American Academy and expressed concern for the academy's director, Peter Carmen. He then mentioned that the students in our flight program won the Air Race Classic for the second year in a row, and he congratulated them. He also praised the Porthouse Theatre production of *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, which he had recently attended.

President Diacon then began speaking about recent actions by the state legislature. He said despite some of the legislature's decisions, we strive and will continue to strive to be a university committed to creating a welcoming environment where we all feel like we belong and are supported. He added that we will be guided by our core values of kindness and respect in all that we do. As examples of this, he mentioned the Flashes Go Further program (24% of entering freshman won't have to borrow money for tuition), the removal of standardized test scores for admission, 800,000 dollars per year set aside to help students who struggled in their first year, two million dollars per year added to mental health funding, access to mental health appointments being made easier, additional support for the LGBTQ+ community, and the successful extension of the contract for the tenure-track bargaining unit. He said that the university is currently working on funding raises for non-represented employees as well. He added that he hopes to continue the free weekly meal swipes for all employees.

He then explained the effect that the state budget and SB 83 will have on Kent State University. He said that the budget is bad for all public universities in Ohio. There will only be a 1% state share of instruction (SSI) increase for each of the next two years, and there will be a 3% cap on tuition increases for incoming students; previous budgets would have allowed for increases of 4.6% or more. Increases to the Ohio Opportunity Grants were also very small, replacing a more generous proposal that was in the governor's proposed budget. He is grateful to Senator Cirino who championed the inclusion of in-state College of Podiatric Medicine students in the state share of instruction. This will start one year from now—students will save 13,000 dollars per year. He thanked Nick Gatozzi and Brady Oxender for helping achieve this after nearly a decade of work by the university. Kent can continue mandating freshman and sophomores live on campus if their homes are within 50 miles of Kent.

Bad state budget news means cuts will need to be made in Kent's budget. He said that the university faces a 20-million-dollar budget hole for the 2024 fiscal year (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024). We must cut spending by 3% of the budget for the year. Vice presidents, deans, and the Office of the President are preparing 3.1% budget cuts in their areas. Only Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management are excepted from these cuts.

He finished with some remarks about the recent Supreme Court rulings against Harvard and the University of North Carolina. He said that the decisions will create little impact in Kent State's procedures for admission and added that we will continue to be an access university; our task for the coming year is to be a welcoming university for all students and employees, regardless of race, religion, or political beliefs.

He then invited comments or questions.

Senator Taylor thanked the president and asked whether free lunches could be provided on regionals.

President Diacon said it is up to regional deans to make that decision.

Senator Taylor said that regional enrollment decreases are part of the problem for Kent's budget and wondered where our regional students are going.

President Diacon said an increasing percentage of high school graduates are avoiding college and taking entry level jobs. 6% fewer of our them are going to college. He added that we are not going to see much of an SSI increase, and we will not be getting the amount proposed by the governor in the original budget.

Provost Tankersley conveyed that she and Senator Mechenbier have been working on a procedure to allow regional faculty (who are present on Kent Campus for committee meetings) to participate in the once-a-week meal swipe initiative.

There were no further questions or comments.

7. Educational Policies Council (EPC) Items

a. EPC ACADEMIC CALENDAR ADVISORY COMMITTEE (presented by Associate Vice President Therese Tillett)

i. Revise parts of term in the summer to accommodate term length decreasing from 13 to 12 weeks (summer 2024)

Associate Vice President Tillett explained the deliberations and process the calendar committee went through to make their recommendations. Monday starts would begin again starting Fall 2023. Some decreases will be made in the length of Summer 2024 classes.

A motion was made to send the revisions to the calendar that were suggested by the committee to the Office of the Provost (Taylor).

Chair Laux then invited comments or questions.

Senator Cunningham was concerned that starting Summer III on the week of the 4th of July could be problematic, and she said that she had asked about having Summer I, a week break, and then Summer III. She added that this is not possible because of financial aid according to Associate Vice President Tillett, but she wondered whether anything could be done about the holiday.

Associate Vice President Tillett responded that the one-week break Senator Cunningham suggested was originally appreciated by the committee, but Brenda Burke (Associate Vice President of Student Financial Aid) pointed out that financial aid had issues with the break. She invited Associate Vice President Burke to explain.

Associate Vice President Burke explained that if the break happened in term, the break term would not be eligible for many financial and federal aid programs for that time period. The reason the terms in the recommendation overlap is to avoid that discontinuation of financial aid coverage.

Senator Wagner commented that Juneteenth is also a federal holiday and that at least they would not both fall in the same term.

Senator Mangrum asked whether Summer II would be eight weeks and finish two weeks earlier than in the past. He also wondered how many holidays would be in the Summer II term under the new calendar. He was concerned because this could collide with regulatory contract hours in his college.

Chair Laux suggested that there is a lot of leeway in terms of contact hours per week in summer courses. Hours could be adjusted to avoid holidays.

Senator Mangrum replied that the increase in times would make classes very difficult for students. He also asked whether it would add days of work for faculty.

Chair Laux said it would not.

Associate Vice President Tillett confirmed that there would be three federal holidays during Summer II.

Senator Mangrum said it would be untenable for some of his courses.

Senator Walton-Fisette mentioned that it makes no sense that Summer II starts before Summer I. She also suggested that if Summer II was moved until after Intersession, students could have the possibility of enrolling in both terms.

Associate Vice President Tillett replied that few students were trying to schedule that way, but she acknowledged that some could have trouble if they wished to do what had been done in the past.

Senator Walton-Fisette was concerned that a student taking classes during Intersession would not be able to take other summer courses without getting a special exception.

Associate Vice President Tillett explained that this solution is not perfect but satisfies the greatest number of students.

Senator Walton-Fisette asked whether Summer II could be moved to immediately follow Intersession.

Associate Vice President Tillett said they were trying to minimize open learning sections. If Summer II moved right after Intersession, a lot of open learning sessions would still exist.

Chair Laux asked whether open learning could be a possible solution to Senator Mangrum's previous concerns.

Associate Vice President Tillett said open learning is not going away, but it may prevent students from getting financial aid in a timely manner.

Provost Tankersley said that open learning session use needs to be decreased, so we can put students first. Too many faculty were creating their own summer schedule with open learning, and this makes it much harder for students. She also mentioned problems with overlaps in the 7-week courses.

Chair Laux said those teaching 7-week courses were on the calendar committee.

Associate Vice President Tillett confirmed that they were represented and generally happy with the recommendations. The overlapping option for 7-week courses is there to provide programs the option to run courses that make sense that can overlap to do so, and to use the new 6-week option for those courses that do not make sense to overlap.

Senator Mangrum replied that Aeronautics needs to retain the Summer courses and increasing times even further could be detrimental for several courses with outside regulatory contact hours. He suggested he would support it if the hours could be met as an exception.

Provost Tankersley asked whether the new 13-week practical experience course could solve the problem.

Senator Mangrum said he doubted it.

Associate Vice President Tillett suggested that the 12-week session could be used to schedule the courses that concerned Senator Mangrum.

Senator Mangrum agreed that it was a possible solution.

Chair Laux expressed gratitude for the possible solution.

Senator Piccirillo-Smith asked whether the faculty in 7-week courses would be willing to teach with no break after spring semester. She also wanted to know whether the first seven weeks and second seven weeks offer courses that have the earlier course as a prerequisite for the later one.

Associate Vice President Tillett answered that currently and in the past, there has never been a break for those teaching the 7-week courses. She said currently the first seven-week courses end on a Sunday, and the second set starts on a Monday, so they would not be able to do prerequisites as it currently stands.

Andrew Shipka (Director, Kent State Online) said that courses that needed that could run a 7-week and then a 6-week class to get around the problem.

Senator Piccirillo-Smith asked whether that was explained to instructors.

Director Shipka answered that it was.

Chair Laux said that academic units are pretty good at adjusting to these situations.

Dean Mistur said there are some sequencing issues for those who need to take Intersession followed by Summer II. He said the earlier proposal to stack terms might have an advantage for those courses. They are currently offered in open learning, but they would not fit well in the overlap.

Senator Taylor asked whether there were repercussions for overlapping sessions being taken.

Associate Vice President Tillett said that the overlapping is fine for student financial aid. Breaks are a problem, but overlapping is not.

Senator Taylor asked whether the second seven weeks could be pushed back a week to avoid overlap.

Associate Vice President Tillett replied that per federal regulations, a 7-week sequence could start a week early, but it would not be allowed to end a week late as well. The time span for a course is limited.

Provost Tankersley thanked the committee for their efforts and pointed out how much work they did to reach this point.

Senator Wagner asked about the rationale for why Summer II needed to be where it is on the recommendation. She also thanked the committee for their work.

Associate Vice President Tillett said that it was the spot that most members of the calendar committee favored in the meetings.

Chair Laux also thanked the committee.

Senator Walton-Fisette suggested again that the sessions should at least have the terms renamed.

Associate Vice President Tillett agreed that some terms will need to be renamed moving forward.

There were no further comments or questions.

The motion passed.

ii. Revise placement of spring break to the ninth week (spring 2024)

Associate Vice President Tillett explained that the committee is recommending Spring Break be permanently placed in the 9^{th} week of the semester. She gave the rationale for the change.

A motion was made to pass the revision to the placement of the break (Walton-Fisette).

Chair Laux invited questions or comments.

Senator Cunningham asked whether it will go into effect Spring 2024 or Spring 2025.

Associate Vice President Tillett responded that it will be Spring 2025.

There were no further comments or questions.

The motion passed unanimously.

b. EPC NF MARK COMMITTEE (presented by Registrar Chris Dorsten, Bursar Stina Olafsdottir, Associate Vice President Therese Tillett)

i. Revise the process of assigning the NF mark at the end of term (fall 2023)
Associate Vice President Tillett gave a history of the NF mark. Bursar Olafsdottir shared a PowerPoint with the current process for how NF marks are calculated, displayed, appear on the degree audit, and trigger emails. Registrar Dorsten shared data explaining what students historically took. Bursar Olafsdottir then presented two possible ways to alter the NF remark. Option one had been previously approved by the Educational Policies Council (EPC).

A motion was made to pass the first option (Dauterich).

The group then offered to address comments or questions.

Senator Mechenbier thanked the committee. She then said that faculty should encourage attendance and completion by students. She also asked whether it would affect financial aid.

Associate Vice President Tillett said that students receiving NF marks get no financial aid.

Senator Mechenbier yielded to Shelley Marshall who was on the committee.

Professor Marshall explained that we need to use the NF process effectively and early in the semester, so having the option where faculty can use the NF to have students take responsibility for their attendance is important.

Chair Laux called for a point of order. He clarified that only the chair can grant time to non-senators, and senators cannot yield their time.

Senator Wamsley wondered whether it would impact CCP students.

Associate Vice President Tillett replied that she did not know how it would.

Senator Wamsley said if students fail a CCP course, then parents must pay for it. She wanted to know how automatically dropping an NF would affect student aid, the number of classes they must take, and other aspects of their coursework.

Associate Vice President Tillett said she will go to the division's CCP director to see how it will be dealt with.

There were no further questions or comments.

The recommendation was passed unanimously.

8. Old Business: Student Cheating and Plagiarism Policy Revisions

Chair Laux explained that an *ad hoc* committee is looking at the policy to determine how it relates to artificial intelligence (AI). He suggested that if a faculty member says it is cheating, then it is regardless, but there may be other things related to AI that need to be addressed.

9. New Business: Action Item: Basic Needs and Mental Wellbeing Syllabus Statement

Chair Laux explained the statement and also told the audience where approved statements can currently be found on the university's website. He then asked for and received a motion and a second to endorse the statement (Evey/Taylor).

He then invited questions or comments.

Senator Roxburgh questioned wording that had been stricken out and replaced in the statement.

Chair Laux asked Senator Dauterich to respond because he had made the change.

Senator Dauterich said that he had made the change to help the statement be clearer in what was being referred to.

Senator Roxburgh suggested that the new version was a little bit inelegant, but she offered to work on alternative wording and send it later.

Several senators and Chair Laux made suggestions on the floor for how the wording could be revised.

Senator Wamsley wanted to know whether the link to the statement resources mentioned by Chair Laux goes to regionals and whether this statement conflicts with the one at the Salem campus.

Chair Laux asked whether the mental health resources and statement were meant for the Kent campus or all campuses.

Interim Vice President Murray said she believed it is meant for Kent, but she would look into it.

Chair Laux suggested senate does not have to pass this; they could revise it based on Senator Roxburgh's hesitation and vote later.

Senator Roxburgh said that she had placed some alternative wording in the chat.

Senator Taylor pointed out that many regional campuses had their own links.

Senator Wamsley said that the link does not include Salem.

A motion and a second was made to table approval of the statement until it could be revised and other questions from the senators were answered (Walton-Fisette/Abraham).

The motion passed.

10. Announcements/ Statements for the Record

There were no announcements or statements for the record.

11. Adjournment

Chair Laux adjourned the meeting at 5:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Edward Dauterich Secretary, Faculty Senate



Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes of the Meeting April 26, 2023

Present: Tracy Laux (Chair), Darci Kracht (Vice Chair), Ed Dauterich (Secretary), Athena Salaba (At-Large), Ann Abraham (Appointed), Helen Piontkivska (Appointed)

Not Present:

Guests Present: Provost Melody Tankersley, Dean Alison Smith, Dean Mandy Munro-Stasiuk, Director Jennifer Marcinkiewicz, Jennifer Newberger, Robin Vande Zande

1. Call to Order

Chair Laux called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. in the Faculty Senate Office (227 Michael Schwartz Center). Attendants were also present on Microsoft Teams.

2. Meet with Provost

Topics that the Executive Committee discussed with Provost Tankersley included the following: ombudsperson candidates, academic programming and hiring at the regional campuses, faculty workload statements, leadership roles on individual campuses, and possibilities for a future budget model. Provost Tankersley also informed the committee that President Diacon is in Columbus working with the state legislature on SB 83.

3. Dean Alison Smith and Kent Core Update

Dean Smith and the other guests explained the progress of the Re-Envisioning the Kent Core Process so far. The explanation included updates on the listening tours and the work of the three subcommittees (Design, Distinctiveness, and Budgetary Reform), as well as a timeline for upcoming steps in the process. The PowerPoint can be viewed here.

4. Approval of the Executive Committee Minutes

a. Minutes of the April 10, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes (Piontkivska/Salaba).

The motion passed with one abstention.

b. Minutes of the April 20, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes (Piotnkivska/Kracht).

The motion passed with one abstention.

5. May Faculty Senate Meeting Agenda

The Executive Committee set the agenda for the meeting.

6. MAC ALDP Fellowship/Senate Executive Committee Process

Chair Laux informed the committee that the Chair of Senate can recommend a member of the Executive Committee for this fellowship if the current chair does not want to accept it. If no member of the committee wants to accept it, a senator can be recommended.

7. Committee on Committees (COC) Survey Discussion

The survey has been sent out, and the results are being gathered.

8. Additional Items

The Executive Committee discussed providing a parting gift for Tess Kail for her years of service to the senate,

9. Adjournment

Chair Laux adjourned the meeting at 4:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Edward Dauterich Secretary, Faculty Senate



Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes of the Meeting May 24, 2023

Present: Tracy Laux (Chair), Darci Kracht (Vice Chair), Ed Dauterich (Secretary), Athena Salaba (At-Large), Ann Abraham (Appointed), Helen Piontkivska (Appointed)

Not Present:

Guests Present:

1. Call to Order

Chair Laux called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m. in the Faculty Senate Office (227 Michael Schwartz Center). Attendants were also present on Microsoft Teams.

2. Meet with President

Topics that the Executive Committee discussed with President Diacon included SB 83 and the possibility of making free meal swipes available for faculty and staff on regional campuses.

3. Approval of the Executive Committee Minutes

There were no minutes available to approve.

4. EPC May Transmittal

The Executive Committee decided to send items 1, 2, and 3 to the full senate. Items 4 and 5 were course inactivations and were passed by the Executive Committee on behalf of the senate (Piontkivska/Salaba moved and seconded). The latter two items will go to senate as information items

5. Appointed Executive Committee Members

Candidates were considered for appointment to the Executive Committee.

6. Faculty Ethics Committee (FEC) and Other Elections

Elections will be run soon for the FEC and the Committee on Academic Officers (CAO).

7. Committee on Committees (COC) Update

The COC met and made recommendations to Chair Laux. He will follow the recommendations. Membership on the COC for next year will be considered soon.

8. MAC ADLP Fellowship/Senate Executive Committee Update

Vice Chair Abraham has agreed to accept the fellowship for the Executive Committee. Other fellows will be appointed by the university administration.

9. Additional Items

The committee discussed filling the open Senior Secretary position.

10. Adjournment

Chair Laux adjourned the meeting at 4:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Edward Dauterich Secretary, Faculty Senate



Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes of the Meeting May 26, 2023

Present: Tracy Laux (Chair), Darci Kracht (Vice Chair), Ed Dauterich (Secretary), Athena Salaba (At-Large), Ann Abraham (Appointed), Helen Piontkivska (Appointed)

Not Present:

Guests Present:

1. Call to Order

Chair Laux called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in the Faculty Senate Office (227 Michael Schwartz Center). Attendants were also present on Microsoft Teams.

2. Approval of the Minutes

There were no minutes to approve.

3. Faculty Senate Meetings AY 2023 – 2024

Dates for the academic year were set by the committee.

4. Educational Policies Council (EPC) Appointments

Senator Edward Dauterich and Senator Helen Piontkivska were recommended for appointment to the council.

5. Committee on Committees (COC) Appointments

The Executive Committee decided to appoint Senator Deborah Smith and Cindy Kristof to the committee.

6. Summer Executive Committee Meeting

The meeting will be held on June 20th at 10:00 AM in the Faculty Senate Office.

7. SB 83/HB 151 Update

Chair Laux will meet with Representative Pavliga to speak about the bills. The Office of the Provost wants to create an *ad hoc* committee similar to the Academic Continuity Committee that served during the pandemic. That committee would work with administration and faculty to address the bills as well.

8. Additional Items

There were no additional items.

9. Adjournment

Chair Laux adjourned the meeting at 3:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Edward Dauterich Secretary, Faculty Senate



Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes of the Meeting June 20, 2023

Present: Tracy Laux (Chair), Ann Abraham (Vice Chair), Ed Dauterich (Secretary), Eric Taylor (At-Large), Athena Salaba (Appointed)

Not Present:

Guests Present:

1. Call to Order

Chair Laux called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Faculty Senate Office (227 Michael Schwartz Center). Attendants were also present on Microsoft Teams.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the May 2023 Meeting

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes (Abraham/Salaba).

The minutes were approved after the correction of a typo.

3. EPC Transmittal

Items 1, 2, and 3 will go to the full Faculty Senate for a vote. A motion was made and seconded to pass items 4 and 5 and send them to the senate as information items (Abraham/Salaba). The motion passed unanimously.

4. University Policy 6-22 Regarding Graduate Assistantships

The Executive Committee reviewed a draft of the policy. The committee also agreed that the final draft should be sent to the Professional Standards Committee (PSC) for review before being taken to the full senate. Chair Laux will get the PSC's new members appointed and inform Associate Provost van Dulmen when they have looked over the policy.

5. Basic Needs & Mental Well Being Syllabus Statement

The statement will be taken to the full senate for possible endorsement; a few suggestions for changes will be made to Senior Vice President Hylton before it comes before Faculty Senate. The Executive Committee will continue to work with the Office of the Provost to see if there is a place for all of the approved statements to be easily accessed.

6. Faculty Senate Meeting July Agenda

The agenda was set.

7. Meeting Dates

Meeting dates for AY 23-24 were discussed for Faculty Senate, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, and the Educational Policies Council.

8. Additional Items

There were no additional items.

9. Adjournment

Chair Laux adjourned the meeting at 11:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Edward Dauterich Secretary, Faculty Senate