



FACULTY SENATE

Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2023

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

Senators Not Present: Todd Hawley, Richard Mangrum

Ex-Officio Members Present: Kevin West for Provost Melody Tankersley; Senior Vice President Mark Polatajko; Amy Quillen for Senior Vice President Eboni Pringle*; Vice Presidents: Sean Broghammer, Michael Kavulic for Doug Delahanty, Amoaba Gooden, James Raber for John Rathje, Charlene Reed, Peggy Shadduck, Valoree Vargo, David Ochmann for Willis Walker; Deans: Sonia Alemagno, Christina Bloebaum, Allan Boike, Ken Burhanna, James Hannon, Mark Mistur, Mandy Munro-Stasiuk, Diane Petrella, Elizabeth Piatt*, Amy Reynolds, Alison Smith, Deborah Spake, Christa Porter for Manfred van Dulmen

*Interim

Ex-Officio Members Not Present: President Todd Diacon, Vice President Stephen Ward, Dean Versie Mallard-Johnson

Observers Present: Ms. Olivia Eader (USS)

Observers Not Present: Emeritus Professor Paul Farrell, Ms. Emily Erb (GSS)

Guests Present: Andrew Barnes, Sue Clement, Cesquinn Curtiss, David Dees, Chris Dorsten, Aimee Dudas, Rebecca Harvey, Jennifer Hebebrand, Ben Hollis, Tom Janson, Kristina Kamis, Jennifer Kellogg, Alice Kopunovitz, Dana Lawless-Andric, Joanna Liedel, Jennifer Marcinkiewicz, Amy Nuesch, Christa Ord, Matthew Rollyson, Therese Tillett, Deirdre Warren

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 (Roxburgh/Vande Zande). The agenda passed unanimously by acclamation.

4. Approval of the Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes of October 9, 2023

Chair Laux asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 9, 2023, Faculty Senate meeting. A motion was made and seconded (Vande Zande/Kaplan).

The minutes were approved unanimously with no corrections.

5. Chair's Remarks

Chair Laux delivered his remarks [\[attached\]](#).

He then invited comments or questions.

There were no comments or questions.

6. Report on Enrollment (Vice President Sean Broghammer)

Vice President Broghammer gave the presentation by PowerPoint [\[attached\]](#). Overall, Spring 2024 registration enrollment is up about 5% in comparison with last year. The total number of first and second-year students has increased. The junior and senior class numbers are lower; this may be due to those students enrolling for their first year during the COVID-19 pandemic. Undergraduate enrollment is positive for the present. Domestic graduate student enrollment is lower; international graduate student enrollment is higher. Vice President Broghammer projects that undergraduate enrollment for Fall 2024 is about 1% higher than last year. He added that graduate enrollment for the same time period will probably remain flat.

He then invited comments or questions.

Senator Dalman asked whether the College of Podiatric Medicine (CPM) numbers were included in the Kent or the regional campus lines.

Senator Smith replied that CPM is considered to be part of Kent Campus, but it has its own budget. She was unsure about whether graduate enrollment was factored into the data.

Vice President Broghammer replied that CPM is actually handling its own numbers during the application cycle, and the only time they add it to the Kent campus is for final census numbers.

Senator Kaplan mentioned a survey that showed that Kent State was doing better at branding itself than other schools were. He mentioned that Miami University had an entire building devoted to branding and wondered whether Kent had plans for something similar.

Vice President Broghammer responded that the survey in question was called Student Insights and that Kent State had been using it for the last three years to gain understanding and awareness of how the university is perceived by high school seniors. He said that right now, the university needs to focus on quality and showing students why they should attend Kent State, but he added that there were no definitive current plans for such a building.

Senator Roxburgh asked whether he was privy to data at other institutions, and if so, how we compare to them for Fall 2024.

Vice President Broghammer replied that we were up by around 20% last semester, and our competitors were about the same. Currently we are in a similar situation. He added that students were applying earlier and that commitments are coming earlier than they had in the past.

Senator Vande Zande asked about 100% online master's degree programs and wondered whether there were more applicants for those, especially from international students.

Vice President Broghammer replied that there is a decline in domestic graduate enrollment, and they are looking at marketing strategies to expand our footprint in that area. He was not as sure about international online growth.

Senator Ewing wanted to know what factors had contributed to the increase in applications.

Vice President Broghammer said that the free application processing and sending many marketing messages to students were some of the factors.

Senator Ewing then asked what the key obstacles were to improving yield.

Vice President Broghammer replied that it was necessary to talk to students about access, personalized experience, and the opportunities for engaging with faculty and academic programs. All of these can help to attract students.

Senator Guercio said she had participated in visits with her daughter at the University of Pittsburgh and at other universities. Kent never mentioned their regional system while others did. She wanted to know the reason for this.

Vice President Broghammer responded that it was a good question and that when students come, they tend to focus on the main campus, assuming they are touring the campus they wish to attend. He agreed that promotional materials could be better at mentioning all eight campuses.

Senator Walton-Fisette asked about our demographics with underrepresented populations.

Vice President Broghammer replied that our freshman class this year is the most diverse ever. The challenges are more around retention.

Senator Piontkivska asked whether College Credit Plus (CCP) students regularly matriculated to Kent State, and if so, whether it was worth expanding the program.

Vice President Broghammer invited Vice President Shadduck to answer the question.

Vice President Shadduck replied that 35-40% enroll at Kent State.

Vice President Broghammer said that they are looking at more outreach to get more students to matriculate. Kent State does not designate them on faculty rosters, so it is often hard for faculty to recruit them.

Senator Piontkivska suggested that the conversation about cost may deter people from enrolling. She was concerned that other parents might be unaware that it is not a risky process.

Vice President Broghammer said they are increasing the advising for CCP students to help with that. There are now two dedicated CCP advisors provided

There were no further comments or questions.

7. Report on the Kent Core (Dr. David Dees)

Dr. Dees delivered his presentation by PowerPoint [[attached](#)]. Dr. Dees informed the senate that the committee had completed the faculty listening tours. He added that the various committees involved will be working to present four frameworks (not final choices) to the faculty and invite further conversations in Spring 2024. Student listening tours will also occur next semester.

After the presentation, he invited comments or questions.

Senator Cunningham read the following statement to the Faculty Senate:

“I’ve sat on various Kent Core teams from the beginning of the redesign, and one of our first tasks was to identify the most important outcomes and skills that students should gain from the Core curriculum. Consistently at the top of that list was written communication, so I want to speak in favor of keeping the second writing course—Research Writing—as part of the Core.

College Writing, the first course, introduces students to the idea that writing is a process and provides a foundation so that all students are beginning with the premise that writing requires drafts, feedback, and revision. This course levels the playing field so that all students begin with foundational writing skills before moving on to more critical types of thinking and writing, including locating and integrating credible, secondary sources.

Often, students come to the first writing course either directly from high school or while still in high school as CCP students and believe that writing means composing a five-paragraph essay that's repetitive and effectively thoughtless (but able to pass standardized writing tests). Considering the number of students taking Core classes as CCP students, many are completing College Writing while still in high school, in a high school classroom, with their high school teachers and classmates, which makes the need for the second writing class even more important.

Research Writing, the second course, teaches students about finding credible secondary sources and citing those sources in APA (a citation style more widely used than MLA, which tends to be what students learn in high school). Even more, considering the rise in plagiarism, AI-generated writing, and misinformation, the second course is even more important now because it addresses those very issues and prepares students for the Writing Intensive Courses (WIC) that already expect students to be able to find and cite relevant resources and peer-reviewed scholarship in their fields.

I mention all of this to demonstrate that there's simply too much to cover in just one writing class and that removing Research Writing from the Kent Core will put our students at a disadvantage. College Writing and Research Writing are taught by instructors with expertise in writing studies. We remain current in pedagogical writing trends and best practices and are the most prepared and equipped for teaching students in an ever-changing writing environment. In fact, we're constantly working towards equitable assessment practices and are currently becoming more informed about AI-generated writing so that we can both explain its uses and misuses as well as being able to identify it among student writing.

So, again, I want to encourage the Core redesign to retain Research Writing—taught by faculty with expertise in composition pedagogy—as part of the Core curriculum. Our students need the experience, and our instructors have the expertise.”

Senator Kaplan thanked Dr. Dees and mentioned that in his view, the experiential learning requirement had become sort of a “zombie” requirement that was tacked on to every major's capstone class. He expressed the hope that the revision of the Kent Core could be guided to enable more connected activities for students without adding to expenses for them.

Dr. Dees responded that the committees were considering those ideas.

Undergraduate Student Government Representative Eader expressed appreciation for the idea that the Kent Core be made more meaningful to students. She also voiced strong support for the inclusion of the Research Writing course in any Kent Core model.

There were no further comments or questions.

8. Old Business: Administrative Policy Regarding Student Cheating and Plagiarism

Senator Smith explained the changes to the policy that had been made after consultation with the Professional Standards Committee (PSC). The policy presented on the senate floor can be found [here](#). She explained that the updated policy includes more precise language about generative-AI.

Senator Smith moved to pass the policy.

She then moved to amend the policy to change the definition of generative AI in # 15 to read as follows: “Generative Artificial Intelligence Program (GAI)” means any internet-based generative Artificial Intelligence programs that make use of large language model algorithms to make something new. AI used for auto-complete, minor text-predictions, and/or grammar/spelling/punctuation suggestions, commonly found in most word-processing applications, is not considered GAI.”

Senator Piontkivska seconded the motion.

There were no further comments or questions.

The motion passed as amended.

9. New Business: University Policy Regarding Graduate Assistantships

Associate Dean Christa Porter explained the policy, which can be found [here](#). There had not been an official university policy regarding graduate assistantships in the past, so this sought to remedy the situation. There was information regarding graduate assistantships in the Graduate College’s guide to graduate education, but because it was not a university policy, it was not enforceable. The new policy also addresses summer assistantships for graduate assistants. After explaining the item, Associate Dean Porter invited comments or questions.

Senator Smith commented that if a graduate assistant were registered during the summer, that assistant’s credit hours would have to be supervised by an instructor of record, who would have to receive compensation.

Senator Wamsley asked whether graduate assistants were prevented from having employment beyond their assistantship.

Associate Dean Porter responded that units can ask but cannot require that students do not have outside employment. It would be unenforceable. On-campus employment is restricted to 20 hours.

Dean Mistur asked whether assistantships covered by the policy were only full-time. He asked whether it also covered half-time assistantships.

Associate Dean Porter replied that it did.

Dean Mistur then asked whether there was the possibility of a full-time assistantship with a workload of ten hours per week and a full tuition waiver.

Associate Dean Porter affirmed that this was possible.

Senator Smith suggested a change in the wording of the policy. She suggested that rather than mentioning a fifteen-week term in section D, the language be changed to “per semester.”

Associate Dean Porter agreed with the amendment.

There were no further comments or questions.

Senator Smith moved to approve the item as amended, and the motion was seconded.

The item passed as amended.

10. Announcements/Statements for the Record

Chair Laux introduced Aimee Dudas, the new administrative assistant for Faculty Senate.

Senator Smith announced that although the Wednesday hearing on SB 83 had been canceled, faculty should still keep their testimony ready for further hearings.

There were no further announcements or statements for the record.

11. Adjournment

Chair Laux adjourned the meeting at 4:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Edward Dauterich
Secretary, Faculty Senate