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2024-10-11 Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate

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**Executive Committee of the Academic Senate
(ECAS)**

ACADEMIC SENATE
UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON
2024-2025

MEETING MINUTES

FRIDAY, October 11, 2024
10-11:30 AM, SM 113B

President: Erin O'Mara Kunz

Vice President: Jackie Arnold

Secretary: Kayla Harris

Members: Jackie Arnold, Ali Carr-Chellman, Garrett Conti, Jen Dalton, Deo Eustace, Jon Fulkerson, Kayla Harris, Suki Kwon, Erin O'Mara Kunz, Chelse Prather, Joel Pruce (Faculty Board), Andrea Seielstad, Rachel Yeager, Darlene Weaver

Present: Jackie Arnold (virtual), Garrett Conti, Jen Dalton (virtual), Deo Eustace, Jon Fulkerson, Kayla Harris, Erin O'Mara Kunz, Chelse Prather, Joel Pruce (Faculty Board), Andrea Seielstad, Rachel Yeager, Darlene Weaver

Absent: Ali Carr-Chellman, Suki Kwon

Guests: Andy Horner (Exec. VP for Business & Administrative Services), Eric Spina (President of the University of Dayton), Joel Pruce (Standing Guest, Faculty Board), Willie Morris IV (Leadership UD, Associate Director of Professional Education)

Opening

- Call to Order (E. Kunz) 10:01 am
- Opening prayer/meditation (C. Prather) [\[Prayer/meditation sign up here\]](#)
- **VOTE:** approval of [minutes from October 4, 2024 meeting](#)
 - *Approved by unanimous consent*

Announcements

- October 15, 2024: Board of Trustees Installation Ceremony, Science Center Auditorium, 5pm
- October 15, 2024: Board of Trustees Installation Dinner, Curran Place, 6pm
- October 18, 2024: Academic Senate Meeting, KU Ballroom, 3:30-5:30pm
- October 28, 2024: ELC, President's Suite (KU), 10:30am-12:00pm

Agenda Items

- **DISCUSSION AND VOTE:** [RES 2024-01](#), Support for Non-renewed Professional Faculty
 - Drafted based on feedback from Faculty Board snap survey, listening sessions and concerns that have been shared by professional faculty

- This does not need to be the only action the Senate / ECAS takes in regard to this issue,
- Cannot assume that everyone who has their contract not renewed would want to apply for a different position at UD, trying to center the preferences and needs as indicated by professional faculty in the surveys and listening sessions
- Q: What happens if a professional faculty member is involved in a grant?
 - A: Grants are awarded to the university, but they can move with a person to different institutions. This would be a good thing to consider.
- *Motion to approve this resolution* (J. Arnold, J. Fulkerson second)
 - Vote: 10 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain
 - *Motion passed*
- **DISCUSSION AND VOTE:** Approve Academic Senate [Meeting Agenda](#) for 10/18/24
 - *Motion to approve the October Senate Agenda knowing the related materials will be updated* (J. Fulkerson, C. Prather second)
 - Vote: 10 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain
 - *Motion passed*
- **DISCUSSION AND VOTE:** [Charge for APC](#): Humanities CAP Proposal
 - *Motion to deliver the charge to APC* (J. Arnold, J. Fulkerson second)
 - Vote: 10 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain
 - *Motion passed*
- **DISCUSSION AND VOTE:** Review votes via google form, select ARDC Senate Representative
 - ECAS voted on self-nominations from Senators
 - *Motion to extend invitation to appoint Mary-Kate Sableski as Senate Representative to ARDC* (K. Harris, J. Fulkerson second)
 - Vote: 9 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain
 - *Motion passed*
- **DISCUSSION:** Semester meeting with Eric Spina, Darlene Weaver, and Andy Horner
 - Comment: Appreciated the approach with a short video, tone and approachability can be hard to convey in the written messages
 - Comment: Appreciated commitment on extended appointments in the messaging
 - Question / Comment: Based on assumptions, it looks like....
 - The 2026-2028 Baseline Assumptions are not all encompassing
 - Assumptions are naturally a little more conservative than what may be reality
 - Q: Haven't listened to presentation yet but has viewed the slides. If we are thinking about successful programs, where are the opportunities to think of inter-unit collaboration?
 - We want Deans to be working together and collaborating across schools in order to generate ideas
 - Q: How do we convert funding opportunities into faculty lines? We can't advertise for a faculty position off of a grant.

- We want to make sure we do things that are sustainable, we want external grant funded dollars to support faculty salaries. Could have a grant-funded visiting faculty appointment.
- Q: Does or can the arena bring in money? Wright State arena hosts many events, non-basketball opportunities.
 - Arena brings in revenue that supports all of athletics.
 - Very hard for us to attract performances etc. that can bring in revenue. Have found that other locations are more popular such as Rose at Huber Heights, venues at Cincinnati or Columbus
 - Parking around the Arena and Welcome Stadium provide challenges in cooperation with the public schools
- Q: Last year International Studies was rolled into Global Languages, are there any cost savings with programs being combined?
 - Our breadth of portfolio is both a strength and a challenge because of staffing and administrative support. There are versions of what we are seeing at the graduate level at the undergraduate level and this is why we are doing some of these strategic curricular conversations.
 - Decisions to stop programs, particular degrees etc. are better served if they come from the faculty
 - The interdisciplinary programs are being convened in the College to discuss opportunities and challenges
- Comment: There are needs to consolidate. We have a lot of centers that could attract more students and contribute to building a strong community which is something UD does really well. A lot of this requires to think outside of our units.
 - The number of students in a program is not indicative of value. We are living with the painful effects of not having addressed our rising personnel costs. In order to have bandwidth to build on strengths that can differentiate us, we need to make that room
- Q: With curricular revisions, there have been some comments about reducing the rigor of degree programs. Is there talk of that at the administration level?
 - Trust in our faculty and their expertise with this curricular revisions. It can be easy to think rigor equates to "X" such as not double counting a course when that is not true and the practical implications are counterproductive.
 - Historically rigor meant more, but that is not the only way to achieve a rigorous curriculum and there is ownership at the course level
 - One example: With our student pool decreasing, departments are "fighting" over students and so some students might go where the credit requirements are less.
- Q/Comment: Originally thought that going to 120 credits was impossible, but seeing other institutions doing similar things. With the changes to CAP for example, there is now some room for programs to do this.
 - Comment: One of the biggest problems students have is when they are changing departments, they are worried about not graduating on time. The credit hours are super important to students.

- Prospective students and their parents: Love the humanities, smaller class sizes, comprehensive
- Q: Very residential University but have we looked at expanding online?
 - Our value here is holistic education. We have some online courses and that is good, but as a Catholic, Marianist university, rich interpersonal relationships are very essential. Online is important and can be folded in for specific purposes. To compete in value, we are relationship-rich, holistic education.
 - We could better leverage the online modality in the graduate space.
- Q: All of the unit leaders have their scenarios, have started to hear concerns based on communication with their Deans. If a faculty member has concerns about their Dean's decisions, what should they / we be doing?
 - The Provost is committed to holding all of the people that report to her accountable. It's easier to do that if people are sharing these concerns. However, these are scenarios, and what the Dean turns in is not the "final say" and there will be reviews and negotiations.
 - If there are concerns, it is better that things are brought to light now, instead of waiting until Nov. 8 because then a month is lost
 - We want faculty to give Deans space and grace to do this, but also faculty should be insisting engagement with their Deans on some of the philosophical discussions (ie proportionate cuts versus X, or Y).

Meeting adjourned 11:42 am

Respectfully submitted by Kayla Harris, Secretary to the Academic Senate.