

Faculty Senate Communications Report  
February 2, 2023

This week's Faculty Senate meeting opened with a very timely visit from Rick Phillips to talk about some of the issues with IT lately. Primarily, we discussed the Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) roll out and how that was going (spoiler alert: poorly). He explained that we need this process because we get up to 30 compromised accounts *a week*. Which isn't great. Students got into the MFA system on Jan 13, as well as some additional people. The plan was to include all faculty at the end of the spring semester. However, they accidentally added a group of "students" which turned out to include everybody. They have resolved the problem and the faculty who were inadvertently included have been removed. We will not have to deal with this again until the summer (but if we already set it up, we won't have to go through that again).

*A big problem seems to be with "identity" – that is, how people are classified in the system – and these identities often get muddled. Currently, IT has "home-grown" systems monitoring this and that is part of the problem.*

The Provost had nothing to report and had no updates about the provost search. Ron Morrison asked if there was a "hiring plan for the university." The Provost says that there is nothing that he knows of. Mostly, deans and the provost use data to argue for filling empty positions. There is no public plan, just a discussion for each position.

The Faculty Regent had no report – the Board next meets on February 23. However, she did address the upcoming Regent Election. Regent Adams has withdrawn her nomination. She will still be participating in shared governance, but she needs to focus on her own department for the time being. Since 2017, the English department has lost 8 faculty positions. This is an exemplar of the "hollowing out of the humanities" that is happening at this university. So, she needs to attend to her program and cannot continue to serve as Regent. Vote for Joyce Stubbs!

*Stephen Brigham says thanks to the Board for the forthcoming raise; Regent Adams makes it clear that the raise did not come from the Board but is the efforts of Faculty Senate.*

Staff Congress has not met since the last FS meeting; however, Chair Flora has had discussions with the Provost about staff who also teaching getting evaluated on the teaching performance. These discussions were very positive.

The SGA representative report was almost entirely garbled, in the first of several instances of the awesome university wi-fi network (note: Rick Phillips also said that the Wi-Fi was going to get fixed soon).

The Academic Issues committee has several things in the works. First, they're considering alternative options for the syllabus checklist. One of the questions they have is with regard to the functionality and purpose of the syllabus checklist. Senator Brigham informs the Senate that this is mostly an initiative of Kentucky Purpose First that suggests that we need to find several

redundant ways to get information to students. Academic Issues is also discussing Artificial Intelligence writing software concerns. They've been told that the Dean's Council is working to revise the honesty policy to include this language; they are looking forward to seeing their draft. The committee is also working on an online teaching guide.

Faculty Welfare and Concerns is still working on the same stuff that they were before.

They've gotten some comments from the Provost with regard to PAC27: he and the President are still in conversation, but they have agreed to remove the section that adds the President into the reappointment/review process. However, the part about "additional concerns outside the FEP" are still being discussed. The Provost provided an example: if a program drops in enrollment; they don't want to wait until it is time for tenure and then realize the tenured prof has nothing to teach.

PAC5 also got a first reading. This PAC has to do with private counseling. They have changed language to simplify/clarify. They've defined times for "normally be assigned duties" and have specified the action faculty have to take. There's a standard form that already exists, just not every department was using it. Any questions about the PAC can be sent to Timothy Hare.

Governance announced the candidates for the Regent Election: Stephen Brigham, Steve Chen, and Joyce Stubbs. There will be a forum on Feb 22 from 3-5, it will also be recorded and streamed. The Election begins Feb 27. Please encourage everyone eligible to vote!

One piece of New Business: a program coordinator in the Caudill College has been told that their reassigned time is going to be taken away. In this college, and in other places, there are no departmental chairs, just Associate Deans, so faculty members serve as "program coordinator" to put together schedules, wrangle faculty, etc. and they get a course release to do so. This is a long-standing problem in Caudill and other places, primarily because there's no clear policy. The stated reason for not codifying the position is that "renumeration" is a difficult word to define in this situation. David Long speaks for himself and not on behalf of Faculty Senate when he says, "Just Resign." He suggests that we should create a committee of program directors to plan on how it should work.