

The Comm

2/01/2024

TLDR: Searches progressing & troublesome bills at the state level

Minutes

No minutes are available to review or approve at this time.

Announcements

President Chatham introduced a poll on the method for hosting FS.

Rodney Watkins, the Interim Dean of the library, announced weeding has started. Faculty are encouraged to review the flagged books to help ensure important texts are not inappropriately weeded over the next 2-3 weeks.

President's Report

President Morgan was not available.

Provost Report

Dr. Chris Schroeder, the Interim Associate Provost, gave the report at today's meeting. The Dean of the library search is expected to complete soon. Dr. John Nelson is chairing the search for the new dean of the Caudill College. The committee is scheduling the on-campus visits. The on-campus visits for the Associate Provost are also complete.

Dr. Schroeder provided some additional information on the reorganization. The psychology department is still trying to be homed within the college of science. The college of business is in a similar state of unknown future direction at this time. Senator Lennex asked if the two departments would be combined into a single department. Dr. Schroeder was unsure of the final details. Senator Lennex followed up by asking if there would still be an Associate Dean if there were still two departments. Dr. Schroeder said he was not sure at this time. Senator Lennex asked which faculty from HPIL are being discussed to be moved to business and why? His response was Political Science and Legal Studies.

Senator Adams asked for clarification on the Caudill College Dean search. She said two people have not heard from the search committee since Christmas. Dr. Schroeder reported that Dr. Nelson said they would have the on-campus schedules shortly. Senator Adams also raised a concern about the clarity of the weather policies (Plans A, B, C, & D). Dr. Schroeder clarified each of the plans.

Faculty Regent

The board will meet 2/2/24 at 9:30AM in the Mt. Sterling location.

Staff Congress

There was no representative to give a report.

SGA

There are vacancies in Student Congress. They are preparing for Spring Sesh on March 26th. Movie partnership has started: first 90 students get \$1 ticket Fridays. Executive board elections will be starting shortly. Senator Lennex asked when the ropes course would be taken down. The party that is supposed to remove the course is unclear at this time.

Faculty Senate Committee Reports

Executive Council

Major legislation affecting higher education. This discussion was lead by Senator Adams. She introduced HB 228 – a bill that could undo tenure. HB 9 – an anti-DEI bill. HB 257 – abolish the CPE. SB 6 – an anti-DEI bill that allows faculty to be sued for damages.

Academic Issues

No report at this time.

Evaluation

No report at this time.

Faculty Welfare & Concerns

No report at this time.

Governance

Senator Lennex's first item was to appoint a new member to committee for Intercollegiate Athletics (replacing Richard Weaver with Jason Atkins). There was unanimous support. There was a second reading for 'Employee Benefits Committee' committee description. Senator Remillard reviewed his comments and amendments with the senate. The senate poll tied on a vote to approve his amendments as a slate. President Chatham cast the tie breaking vote to not approve Senator Remillard's amendments. The faculty senate committee preference survey will be sent out in the next couple of weeks.

Conclusion

Kentucky universities are facing their very own Dominion War with the house and senate bills. Hopefully Senator Adams information can help us push back before it is too late. Back to you captain.