

The University of Arizona®
Faculty Senate Executive Committee
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Minutes: October 24, 2022
3:00-5:00 p.m.
VIA ZOOM

Present: M Hymel (Chair), M Bolger, B Brummund, C Casey, H Cui, J Curry, D Cuillier, J Dudas, T Dysart, W Fink, R Hammer, L Hudson, L Irizarry, J Jones, J Milbauer, D Ohala, M Stegeman (Parliamentarian), P Robles, C Rocha, C Rankin, C Simmons, P Zenega and L Ziurys

Absent: L. Folks, J. Frumkin

Guest: President Robbins

Call to Order

Chair Hymel called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

The meeting agenda was approved.

Approval of the Minutes of September 19, 2022

The minutes of September 19, 2022 were approved at 3:06pm

UPDATES:

Guest – President Robbins | Update on Search for Outside Consultation on Campus Security:

There has been a brief speech at SPBAC on this topic. One firm has been chosen which is the PAX Group with Phil Andrew who has a history of twenty-one years as a special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). There is one more individual that will be working on this matter, but the name cannot be released until final paperwork is signed. The PAX Group will look at a bigger scope of work, there has been a rough timeline of six months set in place to work on an interim report. Steve Paterson will work on a list of individuals that pose immediate danger to the University Community; he will be working with a Threat Assessment Team. A committee member asked who the point of contact is, and if there has been a point of contact found over OGC. President Robbins was unable to answer this question and will be checking if it can be divulged publicly. Jennifer Bailey in OGC will be the point of contact for logistics along with Celina Ramirez who reports to Jon Dudas. A committee member asked what the PAX Group will be investigating and reporting on. Robbins explained the PAX Group will take a holistic approach on campus safety, including the recent shooting. There will be an honest and transparent assessment where there will be an ability to improve security on campus and surrounding areas. A committee member asked if there will be opportunities for the community and students to interact and share their thoughts. Consultants have stated the importance of meeting with people in person. A committee member asked if President Robbins has considered having anyone in the consulting group with a background in higher education. Robbins stated, one of the consultants

has direct interaction with Virginia Tech students. Dudas said both people have experience as professors. A committee member asked if the consulting group will be looking at what went wrong. Robbins said, moving forward, the group will be looking at everything, incorporating who will be subject to investigation. In addition, everything will be open and on the table for investigation including where things were done wrong. In this case, people will be held accountable. Consultants will have full access and the University will be given the opportunity to express their views. The committee member also asked if the report would go to Faculty Senate or go through OGC first. Robbins stated that the report will be public, and the contract will be done with OGC to keep all information privileged until the end as this is the usual process. A committee member asked if the consultants will be considering or visiting the Phoenix campus to examine the differences, Robbins stated there will a focus on accountability for the Tucson campus and the scope will increase for an all-inclusive investigation. A committee member asked if there are precise terms that PAX will reference, and if there will be a list of data sources, who will be contacted, and if this information will be made public. Robbins stated they will want to talk to as many people as possible including groups of interest. This will be a six-month project, at minimum, but at ninety days, there will be a preliminary report released. Following on timelines, a committee member asked what is being done with the bonfire held on the Friday of Homecoming weekend, Robbins stated there are no plans to cancel events and there will be heightened security. A committee member questioned if a message from UAPD can be sent to let people know about heightened security, Robbins agreed this would be a great idea. A committee member voiced their concern for whether, a task of individuals realizes that heightened security measures can unnerve certain student groups. Robbins stated consultants have done these measures many times, over numerous institutions. A committee member asked what is being done about on-going threats to professors and questions where the threats go. Robbins stated individuals who are reported are being watched within the law. A committee member also asked if one is feeling threatened, where do they go, and what happens in the event they feel threatened by administrators, where do they go. Robbins stated UAPD is the first place to start, in addition, there should be a diverse portfolio of who is contacted including Department Heads, Deans, etcetera. A committee member asked what capacity the University has when dealing with external threats to various people or departments. Robbins stated to make reports to UAPD and The Police, diversify the portfolio of contacts, and address concerns. Robbins let the committee know he appreciates their time, and going forward, believes the process will be started in the upcoming weeks, this group will be one of the first to be engaged.

Provost – Liesl Folks

Provost Folks was absent.

President of the University – Jon Dudas

No pressing updates/reports.

Vice Chair of the Faculty – Mona Hymel

No pressing updates/reports

Chair of Faculty – Leila Hudson

There will be an email sent to the Senate Executive group requesting for assistance with the names of colleagues for a series of new committees. Hudson appreciated input on people who would like to be involved. A committee member requested clarification on Faculty Membership, Hudson stated she believes it is good to have a new committee and individuals will be reached out to in email form. A committee member asked if members for the committees must be from Faculty Senate or General Faculty. Hudson stated the names can be beyond Faculty Senate and beyond the General Faculty, she is open to all suggestions. A committee member stated someone

within libraries and museums, extension systems, and community functions should have community engagement and serve as active participants. A committee member stated all recommendations should come back to the group. A committee member stated any changes that happen with committees should be brought back to the Senate Executive group to ensure the right thing is done. A committee member stated from an optics standpoint, the last Faculty Senate meeting seemed strained and tense. A committee member asked if the previous Chair of the Faculty made appointments before ending their position, Hudson stated, yes, there were appointments made to key positions and Hudson was not consulted on these before taking office.

Secretary of the Faculty – Tessa Dysart

No pressing updates or reports

IT Liaison – Jeremy Frumkin

No pressing updates or reports

SPBAC – Barry Brummund and Cindy Rankin

Brummund stated he is looking for feedback around guests to SPBAC and whether there is an effective connective between the guests.

University-Wide General Education Committee – Joan Curry

No pressing updates or reports

Graduate Council – Co-chairs Ron Hammer and Hong Cui

Proposal and discussion have been postponed.

Undergraduate Council – Molly Bolger

Proposal and discussion have been postponed

UArizona Staff Council – Jeffrey Jones

No pressing updates or reports.

ASUA – Patrick Robles

No pressing updates or reports.

Committee of Eleven – Wolfgang Fink

No pressing updates or reports.

Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Praise Zenega

No pressing updates or reports.

RPC – Dave Cuillier

No pressing updates or reports.

APPC – John Milbauer

No pressing updates or reports.

SAPC – Cheryl Casey and Diane Ohala

No pressing updates or reports.

GPSC – Luis Irizarry

No pressing updates or reports.

New Business

No pressing updates or reports.

Old Business

A committee member asked if it would be possible to give priority to speakers who aren't apart of the Senate and who have a busy schedule. A committee member suggested making shorter presentations for groups, with a longer and more detailed PowerPoint shared before the Senate meeting.

Review agenda for the November 7th, 2022 Faculty Senate meeting

Items were added, moved, and removed and time allotments were given and adjusted for each item. The Agenda for the November 7, 2022 Faculty Senate meeting has been approved with pending revisions due no later than the end of the week.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:13 PM.