

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

5 December 2024

1:30–2:45 pm

Present: Kendra Boggs, Terri Bucci, Kip Curtis, Joe Fahey, Dawn Kitchen, Andrew Mueller, Elizabeth Kolkovich, Michelle Kowalski, Jason Opal

I. Approval of 5 December 2024 EC Minutes

Steven Joyce made a motion to approve the 5 December EC minutes. Michelle Kowalski seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with a vote of 7 yes, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

II. Report from Associate Faculty

There was no report from Associate Faculty.

III. Report from Staff

Staff members announced the following upcoming events and initiatives:

- a. an upcoming town hall meeting with Dean Opal
- b. two new staff hires—Chris Kick, Communications and Kodey Kreglow, Accessibility Specialist
- c. reminder of upcoming meet and greet opportunities for faculty
- d. December MSAC (Mansfield Staff Advisory Committee) meeting
- e. collaboration and coordination initiatives with USAC (University Staff Advisory Committee)

IV. Faculty Issues

The focus of the discussion of faculty issues centered on issues surrounding cancelled classes and “course payback” policy.

Discussion yielded the following suggestions and ideas:

- a. teach fewer classes with larger numbers
- b. build community” among disciplines to help populate courses
- c. find alternate pedagogical or administrative roles for faculty to count for cancelled classes
- c. investigate “creative solutions” to avoid “owing courses” due to course cancellations
- d. be as flexible as possible to avoid cancelling courses
- e. extend course releases

V. Dean’s Report

Dean Opal reported that the plan for OSU to buy Buckeye Village has fallen through. At the same time, he announced a new “branding” initiative for Molyet Apartments and reiterated his commitment to good campus stewardship in pursuing maintenance and upkeep of the grounds and buildings of OSU-Mansfield. In answer to a question about the future of Molyet, he stated that the current situation

involves a zoning issue and that prioritizing renting to OSU-M students is more of a handshake agreement than a formal one. He also announced the creation of two new administrative positions. Amy Brunell will be Associate Dean for Faculty Development, Cynthia Callahan will be Associate Dean for Student Enrichment, and Dawn Kitchen will be the Senior Associate Dean. Finally, he announced an initiative with the Ohio State Extension in Wooster to develop strategies to address the ongoing food insecurity situation. He asked faculty to help staff make the OSU-M food pantry more sustainable.

VI. Associate Dean's Report

Associate Dean Kitchen addressed the issue of "administrative bloat," pointing out that the two new administrative positions will allow a more focused attention to enhance the student experience as well as promote faculty development. She thanked those involved in the spring orientation sessions and announced the campus "Reading Day."

VII. Faculty Assembly Spring 2025

a. Discussion centered on the development and implementation of GE's into the campus curriculum. Kip Curtis proposed to work with Cynthia Callahan and small discipline related groups to determine (1) what kinds of GE's the campus needs and (2) what we can realistically offer. This includes linking various courses to theme classes and developing new syncretistic courses.

b. Andrew Mueller suggested that schedules be drawn up for maintenance crews as well as campus police in the event of special weather situations.

c. Joe Fahey asked if there would be more money for student work-study positions. Dawn Kitchen pointed out that there is a student work study application form in the OSU- Faculty and Staff Handbook.

The meeting adjourned at 2:33.

Respectfully submitted,

SJoyce

