

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
07 January 2025
11:00 –12:30

Present: Jason Opal, Kip Curtis, Ozeas Costa, Andrew Mueller, Joe Fahey, Dawn Kitchen, Elizabeth Kolkovich, Ashley Smith. Shellie Kowalski

I. Approval of December 5, 2024 EC Minutes

Dawn made a motion to approve the 05 December 5, 2024 meeting minutes. Joe Fahey seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with 5 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.

II. Report from Associate Faculty

Ashley had nothing new to report. Dawn plans to meet with Associate faculty.

III. Report from Staff

Andrew reported that the meeting with USAC (University Staff Advisory committee) was postponed. The first meeting is coming up. A town hall with the Dean is scheduled with February. He also reported that the new staff is onboarding and settling in quickly.

IV. Faculty Issues

Jason reported that he plans to look over and make any potential modifications to the Mansfield Campus Pattern of Administration (POA), the Appointments, Promotion, and Tenure (APT), and the tenure track workload policy documents by this summer. He mentioned that he will consult with Amy, Dawn and the Professional Development committee, as well as potentially appointing other oversight designees for feedback regarding the current document and any potential updates to the document.

Kip suggested reviewing where we stand with the efficiencies of the committees and trying to further eliminate any potential redundancies—and that this may be a task for a bit later in the semester.

Kip and Cynthia are putting together teams of faculty to discuss where we stand regarding current GE offerings, and those that are upcoming next year. They will report back to the faculty assembly concerning this.

Several members suggested that we begin to outline what the future looks like in terms of retirements and begin to talk about how the campus will prepare for that.

Ozeas and Dawn will clarify when the next Arts & Sciences Senator election will take place.

Some discussion was made about reviewing and making sure charges and changes are up to date especially regarding whether the committee's version match the website version.

Question: Should the new positions be part of Executive committee? Jason does not think there is any need to do that as these positions are working to improve services. Dawn and Jason are meeting regularly with them and Amy is acting as a conduit between the Deans and the newly hired staff.

Question: Can we discuss the proper role of faculty governance in budgetary decisions when these decisions affect curricular activities?

V. Dean's Report

Jason will continue sending monthly newsletters.

OAA gave money for campus improvements. As he mentioned in his newsletter, these funds will initially go toward physical upgrades and maintenance including monitoring the pedestrian bridge and Ohio State flagpole installation for Molyet Village.

He plans on reviewing potential IT/AV upgrades in classrooms.

He will also explore campus hosting of recreation and food services on weekends for students. This would be especially useful for students housed at Molyet and those without vehicles. Reasonable timeline is Fall, 2025

He plans on possibly task forces for smoothing out first-year classes and recruitment in order to keep students here.

Jason will be a part of two committees: The first is America 250—1776 anniversary committee—he would like that we have intellectual contributions to the campus surrounding this. The second is Campus Act—State of Ohio passed last year to antisemitism on campus. Take public funding to address religious discrimination. No meetings yet and he will keep us updated.

VI. Associate Dean's Report (Dawn)

Dawn mentioned that the new Associate Deans will help fill gaps with many roles on campus. Their exact roles were defined by Jason at our last Faculty Assembly meeting. Cynthia has agreed to take on Orientation—working with Tara.

Cannot replace Tiffany Mitchell yet. Donna has been filling this role. Students reported feeling really vulnerable—a lack of diversity. Staff in Diversity and Inclusion including Adrienne Hopson and Buffy Williamson are available if small groups of students want to talk to help them feel more connected. Dawn will be sending out a notice to students so students can get to know them and know who there are.

Barnes and Noble will have a “Pop Up” on Thursday, January 9th where Barnes and Noble will be selling OSU merchandise—getting students there will make them feel like proud Buckeyes.

There were some issues with room numbers in Conard. Two rooms were identified as 201 and two rooms as 215. This has been fixed.

The STEAM event is a full go on February 14th.

Cynthia is helping Dawn put together Fall (2025) and Spring (2026) schedules.

Cynthia and Terri Bucci are working on having OSUM host summer camps. These kinds of things are considered “soft recruitment”—introducing one-day prospective students to our campus.

Question: Has thought been given to Latin and Asian populations? Donna mentioned that we are working on reaching out to all students. These students are included in all of the Diversity and Inclusion luncheons. Donna encouraged having students reach out if they have any concerns. Donna suggested that combining minority students together is easier to do than breaking them down in smaller groups.

Andrea Wittmer has secured funding from the East Asian Studies center in Columbus for library collections and is planning on having AN Asian movie gathering.

Clubs can only form when students have an interest for that group of students.

Question: Are we going to have a physical bookstore or will it go virtually moving forward?

Some discussion regarding whether there will be a small physical space. Dean thought that for this semester Barnes and Noble was a better way to go. Preference is that we have a physical space and that it is placed in an area like the student union or the Scarlet and Gray café where it may enliven the space that is already there. E-campus does not have a license for merchandise.

VI. Faculty Assembly Spring 2025

Kip realized that his initial faculty assembly days and times, did not allow certain folks to be there. He is leaning away from 40-minute meetings and is considering a few different times to try to get 1.5 hour meetings, while also maximizing the number of people who can be there. When he is finished, he will apprise everyone of the revised schedule.

Meeting adjourned at 11:58am.