Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

04 February 2025

11:00 –12:30

Present: Jason Opal, Kip Curtis, Ozeas Costa, Andrew Mueller, Terri Bucci, Dawn Kitchen, Elizabeth Kolkovich, Ashley Smith, Shellie Kowalski

**I.** **Approval of January 7, 2025 EC Minutes**

Ozeas made a motion to approve the 04 February, 2025 meeting minutes. Elizabeth seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with 6 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

**II. Report from Associate Faculty**

Ashley had nothing new to report.

**III. Report from Staff**

MSAC met with USAC (University Staff Advisory committee). Staff had questions regarding benefits and when they would start to roll out. There are no plans right now to remove any benefits. Some faculty questions came out about hiring.

**IV. Faculty Issues**

*Fully online/Hybrid/Fully in-person Faculty Assembly Meetings*

Kip mentioned that either fully in-person or fully online FA meetings work better than hybrid meetings based on the feedback he has received.

With regard to the idea that in-person meetings offer greater interaction and attention from faculty, Elizabeth mentioned that you cannot make everyone fully present, even if they are in person. Anytime the English department has an important meeting (*e.g*., tenure decisions), they use a fully online format and it seems to go well.

Ozeas mentioned that that the improved technology/resolution and audio could would create a better product for online meetings.

Kip mentioned what we do going forward will be a discussion for the future.

Dawn mentioned that the new scheduling might allow for having longer meetings (1:20) for faculty meetings. Suggests that half on MW and half on TR.

*Turnover of Faculty*

Kip said that another thing has come up that Scopas has retired and a few faculty are about to retire. How do we start replacing these faculty members? We, as a faculty should be more active in looking at this.

*Immigration Check & Messaging for Students*

Some Deans sent out a message about what faculty are supposed to do if ICE comes to their classrooms. Deans were not supposed to send this out yet, but some did, and some faculty received the email.

Jason said that it is doubtful that this will happen—ICE will show up on campus and first contact will meet with Don Wallace. And then Jason will talk with them. They will not just show up to the classroom unannounced looking for students.

Ozeas said that one student is worried about accepting aid.

Jason mentioned the Pell Grants (53% of OSUM receive Pell Grants) and will urge Columbus on messaging.

Jason wrote a draft of an email to students regarding the religious formation issue but OLA and University Communications argued against it. So instead he wrote a more general email to students inviting them to go to him or others with any concerns about the campus climate.

**V. Dean’s Report**

*Aligment with Other OSU Regional Campuses*

Jason wants to make sure that we are properly aligned with other small campuses. Trying to get a reasonable sameness with teaching expectation and service expectations on campus. Trying to get close to the Newark teaching load. Two-thirds of the classes are taught in-person. A big part of our identity and we need to make sure we keep a fundamentally in-person campus. One-third of our classes are taught by tenure track professors—this is above many of the other campuses. The 1/3rd TT is more about lines.

Deficit is getting smaller. Must need to get into the black to get us faculty lines. He is working on other revenue streams to support this.

Elizabeth wondered about teaching loads. Jason is trying to work out the details with other campuses. Intention would be to lower the teaching load and reduce course releases.

Jason thought about being fairer about annual review and the percentages—more alignment with teaching. What does teaching look like in terms of taking risks? Jason wants to make a policy rather than exception.

*Student Ombudsperson*

Jason wants to appoint Joe Fahey as the *Student Ombudsperson* for dealing when students have issues with faculty. This is separate from the Faculty Ombudsperson. Thinks it is an important way to improve services on campus. Helps that students do not have to go directly into the Dean’s office for this. Hoping it would be a year or two assignment. Joe was okay with Jason mentioning this. Dawn—sending it to faculty who is sensitive like Joe might be less intimidating from the Dean to faculty. The Executive committee uniformly endorsed the position and appointing Joe as the Student Ombudsperson.

Joe mentioned that we may want to take this to the Faculty Assembly. Jason mentioned this at the last FA meeting and will bring it to the next FA meeting.

Kip asked whether a faculty member be involved if students have issues with a faculty member. Jason likes this idea to de-escalate things. Feels that students are more apt to go to properly identified person.

Andrew mentioned that it will be good to know from Donna about whether issues are student life or academic? Might be better received from a faculty member if concern is regarding a faculty member. Get the word out about what information should be passed along and to whom.

**VI. Associate Dean’s Report (Dawn)**

Dawn has nothing else to report. Budget is due soon. Summer schedule is coming out soon. Still working with Barnes and Noble. Still working with schedules for next year. Annual review time.

**VI. Faculty Assembly Spring 2025**

Kip is going to do the two GE meetings.

Jason said with regard to the POA—wants to work with the faculty and this needs to be done by early summer.

Meeting adjourned at 12:19pm.