

Minutes of Senate Faculty Affairs Committee Meeting

Date and time: February 13, 2024, at 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

Location: Zoom

Present: *Voting members:* Helen Cahalane, Laura Dietz, Malgorzata Fort (Co-Chair), Irene Frieze, Frank Jenkins (Co-Chair), Tom Songer, Jessica Thomas, Olivia Rosati; *Non-voting members:* Seth Weinberg; *Guests and liaisons:* Robin Kear, Shannon Wells, Anthony Graham, Brian Hart

Absent: Lorraine Denman, Trisha Cousins, Francis Ferdinand, Parnaz Boodagh, Anna Park, Nancy Hezekiah, Sandra Guzman, Shahfar Shaari, Robin Brooks, Hannah Johnson, John Wallace, Lu-in Wang

Quorum: Yes.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Frank Jenkins at 12:35pm

1. **Approval of the Minutes** – Minutes from January meeting were approved unanimously.
2. **Computer Access and Use Policy** – Brian Hart introduced the policy and explained the unintentional omission of Faculty Affairs Committee’s input. Though the policy came in front of the committee late in the process, the members had the chance to weigh in on it. There were no objections and the Policy was endorsed through an unanimous vote.
3. **Frank Jenkins, Co-Chair updates:**
 - a. There were two responses to the committee’s solicitation for ideas.
 - b. One response asked the committee to review the recent policy on state sales tax exemption. Following a brief discussion, the committee felt that the requirement to have ask for tax exemption for very minor purchases seemed unreasonable. It was suggested that there should be a threshold amount below which the form is not needed. Kear will raise the issue with the CFO.
 - c. The second request regarded HSLs librarian’s contracts. The annual review process and the extension of HSLs librarians’ contracts are on hold since these items are part of the bargaining pool of issues. Weinberg said that lack of policies and procedures for promotion of HSLs librarian was also discussed in the past, but this issue was not part of the letter sent by Irene Frieze to the director of HSLs.
4. **Committee representatives’ updates** – Fort said that there are no updates yet, and including this item on the agenda was premature on her part.
5. **New Business** – Kear suggested that FAC could take on the monitoring and supporting of implementation of Provost’s recommendation to acknowledge faculty efforts related to community-engaged scholarship (CES) and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) as introduced by the Provost Memo from October 30, 2023. The suggestion was briefly discussed and it was suggested to invite Lu-in Wang and John Wallace to the next meeting to tell us about the state of implementation at the school level. Community Engaged Scholarship is not mandatory, but it is for those who wish to do it.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm.

Minutes taken by Gosia Fort