

MINUTES

UNIVERSITY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - SenEx

September 25, 2018

Provost Conference Room, Kansas Union

Approved: October 9, 2018

Members Present: Kirk McClure, Robert Waller, Apramay Mishra, Hossein Saiedian, Ruben Flores, Michelle Ginavan-Hayes, Eliza Kassebaum, Zack Thomason, Sean Alexander, Cambrey Nguyen, Emily Gullickson, Megan Greene

Absent: Charles Jetty (excused), Suzanne Valdez (excused), Nancy Jo Kepple

Also Present: Kathy Reed, Ellen Slikker, University Governance; Mohamed El-Hodiri

Flores called the meeting to order.

AGENDA

I. Audrey Lamb – Potential Initiative for University Senate (attached)

- Lamb read a statement summarizing her proposal for a referendum recommending the Chancellor forgo a national search for a new Provost and appoint the current Interim Provost to the position permanently for a minimum of three years. She has 37 co-signers from 13 departments.
- Various SenEx members raised their concerns with the proposal:
 - o Saiedian said there are some concerns about transparency and that a recommendation of this referendum would be seen as approval of the steps the interim Provost has already taken, for example, on the budget. Lamb said a referendum would provide everyone a voice.
 - o Thomason was concerned that this will set a precedent for the Chancellor to make unilateral decisions, as the budget crisis is probably not going away.
 - o Thomason asked how we would ensure participation by faculty, staff and students. Flores agreed there is a process question as far as who would be allowed to vote. Thomason said there is a higher barrier to entry to information for students.
 - o Greene asked if there is a procedure in the USRR that already exists for a referendum. Reed said there is nothing in the USRR that addresses that. University Senate or Faculty Senate could take votes, but there is no mechanism for a university-wide vote.
 - o McClure said he feels Lejuez has the full powers of a Provost, not “acting” or “interim” and asked what harm is currently being done. Lamb said part of her reasoning is that there are job openings for positions that report to the Provost who will not know who they will ultimately be reporting to.
 - o Alexander asked why they want a referendum now and not before, as there have been 6 Provosts/Interim Provosts in the last 12 years.
- McClure’s concerns:
 - o We do not have a referendum system right now, we would have to create one.
 - o Regarding campus politics, there is a question of how a referendum would be interpreted.

- A referendum could be inferred as a plebiscite on the budget cuts
- AAUP shared governance rules apply to faculty and administration but there are many more staff and students, how do we count everyone fairly?
- Flores will send a letter/email to Lamb with SenEx's response and she can decide how to proceed.

II. **Approval of minutes from September 11, 2018**

Thomason moved to approve minutes, Mishra seconded. Vote: Passed

III. **Standing Reports**

A. **University Senate President Ruben Flores**

- SenEx is scheduled to meet with the Chancellor on September 28th and the Interim Provost October 9th, and University Senate with the Chancellor on October 4th.
- Lejuez would like to meet with SenEx again on October 23rd to follow up on the October 9th meeting. He asked if that was that something the group would like to do? Vote: Yes.

B. **Faculty Senate President Kirk McClure**

- *Budget Cuts:* The methods through which units will absorb the cuts to their base budgets are becoming clear. Attrition of faculty will be a major vehicle for saving money. I estimate that KU will lose 80 to 100 faculty members. The danger in this approach is that KU will lose many older retiring professors, many of who will be our most productive scholars, and KU will lose young stars to other universities happy to prey on our financial hardship.
- *Kansas Board of Regents meeting of the Fiscal Affairs Committee:* The issue of KU's budget cuts was raised. Members asked how KU could be in fiscal distress now when it reported no fiscal problems one to two years ago.
- *New Budget Model:* The new budget model for academic units will be a hybrid. A portion of revenues will be exempt from the budget process, such as differential tuition. A portion of revenues will be allocated by a formula based on Student Credit Hours with adjustments for "subsidies" to units with special needs. A portion of revenues will be allocated by a committee, probably to be composed of faculty members, to reward strategic initiatives.
- *Administrative appointment of chairs and directors:* The Faculty Senate has raised concerns over administrative appointment of chairs and directors without following Faculty Senate Rules and Regulations that call for faculty involvement in these decisions. This issue is complicated by the appointment of interim chairs and directors. For example, it is unclear if the rules governing the appointment of chairs also applies to the appointment of interim chairs.

C. **Student Senate Vice President Charles Jetty – report given by Zach Thomason**

- The Campus Cupboard opened yesterday. This is a food kitchen for students with food insecurities.
- Student Senate is working to pass election code reforms to attempt to increase accessibility to elections.
- Students wish to voice their displeasure around the budget cuts and KAI's role in the meeting with the Chancellor on Friday morning.
- There is a town hall coming up.

D. **Staff Senate President Michelle Ginavan Hayes**

- Staff Senate is continuing to work on the Employee Value Proposition. They will vote on which of the many ideas to focus on.

IV. **Discuss meeting with Chancellor, September 28, 2018, 7:45am**

- Proposed talking points from FacEx were sent out, but everyone should be on the same page.

- Staff and Student Senates are not in favor of raising the question of the jet. Flores proposed moving it to the end if there is time
- Student Senate is hesitant to raise the issue of the Memorial Union. The Provost has already committed to the Student Senate that the 300k will be replaced for at least two more years.
- Staff Senate wants to make it clear how deeply they feel it is unfair that faculty and staff are taking the brunt of the cuts.
- Greene said we must really make it clear that we are not asking about committed KUEA funds. We don't know how much is available to be reallocated, and without know that, we cannot know what is feasible.
 - o Flores said that we have heard from the Provost but not the Chancellor about KUEA. Need to follow up on their recent conversation.
 - o Alexander said that KUEA lowered their contribution to KU during the recession ten years ago. He wants to know if funding levels ever returned to pre-2007 levels after the recession ended.
- There are four questions, as organized by Flores, so each Senate will be allotted about 10 minutes each to ask one of the questions. Reed suggested that there be a plan for who is going to start the conversations and ask questions. Gullickson proposed that each Senate president ask one question.
- Greene suggested politely asking the Chancellor to come to more Senate meetings and remind him he is an ex-officio member.

V. Unfinished Business

- None

VI. New Business

- Alexander asked about the status of the Student Senate feminine hygiene product initiative. Thomason said that there were two proposals and avenues, one by Student Senate and one from Rise KU. It is being finalized, the avenue through Endowment is stalled but Student Affairs is on board. Flores made it a point to ask the Student Senate to please give some credit to Rise KU for the work they have done on the issue this year and last.
- Alexander met with Interim Provost about the budget plan. He took copious notes and is willing to talk to anyone who has more questions. Lejuez made it clear he views the budget cuts and the new budget plan as separate.
 - o Gullickson asked if there will be changes to student fees. Alexander said he thinks that is still based on the previous model.
 - o Flores hopes to have the budget model in writing prior to the meeting on Oct. 9th.

Gullickson moved to adjourn the meeting, Mishra seconded. Vote: Passed

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm

Ellen Slikker, University Governance