

COMMITTEE NAME: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF UNIVERSITY SENATE (ECUS) WITH STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS (SCC)

MEETING DATE & TIME: FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2025, 3:30-4:45 P.M.

MEETING LOCATION: PARKS HALL 301

ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS		“P” denotes Present, “A” denotes Absent, “R” denotes Regrets
P	Alex Blazer (CoAS, ECUS Secretary)	
R	Cathy Cox (University President)	
P	Nicolas Creel (CoBT, ECUS Member)	
R	Stephanie Jett (CoAS, ECUS Vice-Chair)	
P	Joyce Norris-Taylor (CoHS, ECUS Member)	
R	Holley Roberts (Provost)	
P	Lamonica Sanford (Library, ECUS Member)	
P	Rob Sumowski (CoE, ECUS Chair Emerita)	
P	Andrew Allen (APC Chair)	
P	Corey Claxton (DEIPC Chair)	
P	Jennifer Flory (FAPC Chair)	
P	Brad Fowler (RPIPC Chair)	
P	Amy Pinney (SAPC Chair)	

Legend

Highlighted text denotes follow-up.

Bold text denotes action or recommendation.

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:31 pm by Nicholas Creel (Chair).

II. Approval of Agenda: A Motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded. **The agenda was approved as circulated.**

III. Approval of Minutes: A draft of the 7 Feb 2025 minutes of the Executive Committee with Standing Committee Chairs had been circulated to the meeting attendees via email. A Motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded. **The minutes were approved.**

IV. Reports

University President — President Cathy Cox

1. **Regrets, No Report** As President Cox had extended *Regrets* and was unable to attend this meeting, there was no President’s Report.

University Provost — Provost Holley Roberts

1. **Regrets, No Report** As Provost Roberts had extended *Regrets* and was unable to attend this meeting, there was no Provost’s Report.

Academic Policy Committee (APC) — Chair Andrew Allen

1. **Academic Dishonesty Policy Revisions** The Academic Policy Committee approved a motion to revise the current Academic Dishonesty Policy to clarify student and faculty responsibilities and to remove unnecessary language.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy Committee (DEIPC) — Chair Corey Claxton

1. **Recommended Syllabus Statement** The committee voted to table the optional syllabus statement discussing inclusion and belonging until the fall semester to give time for more clarity on supported language.

Executive Committee of University Senate (ECUS) — Chair Nicholas Creel

1. **USG Tenure & Promotion Policy** In the near future, Senate might want to take a lead on Tenure/Promotion policy changes for purposes of “norming” as discussed by USG officials
2. **Provost Meeting**
 - a. **Grants** I discussed potential budgetary effects of changes to indirect costs for grants with the Provost. She communicated that the university was in no immediate danger from this.
 - b. **Federal Actions** The Provost and I discussed potential new concerns arising from other recent federal action. For example, [the letter from the DoE on eliminating all activities that touch on race](#). This explicitly disallows things such as scholarships, and “[all other aspects of student, academic, and campus life](#).” The Provost indicated that we are looking to comply and that area leaders, such as Deans, were empowered to take action as needed to comply with the new rules.
3. **Modified Operations Policy** The Provost has asked that we develop a modified operations policy (for emergency shut downs and the like). I sent the draft of this policy to APC, FAPC, and Staff Council for review. We are looking to have something to vote on for the April 28 meeting. Note that the Chancellor was ok with virtual meetings in an emergency
4. **Program Deactivations** Deactivations are to be announced; however, we should know more for the late March meeting if not sooner.
5. **2025-2026 Governance Calendar** is under review by Executive Cabinet.
6. **University Senate Budget and Foundation Updates**
 - a. State Account: \$3,835.20
 - b. Foundation Account: \$93.75

Subcommittee on Nominations (SCon) — Secretary Alex Blazer for Chair Stephanie Jett

1. **2025-2026 Slate of Nominees** The committee preference survey, including standing committees, the ad hoc AI committee, and university-wide committees, will be sent to EFS soon. Next, Staff Council senators and appointees, SGA senators and appointees, and administrator designees and appointees will be requested. Finally, the call for non-senator volunteers from the Corps of Instruction faculty will follow.

Faculty Affairs Policy Committee (FAPC) — Chair Jennifer Flory

1. **Tenure & Promotion Score Norming** The committee discussed how to address concerns from the USG that T&P scores included too many 4s and 5s. FAPC passed a policy recommendation motion proposing to change GCSU T&P policy to requiring two out of five categories (Research, Teaching, Service, Professional Development, Student Success) be required to score 4s and 5s. This loosens current requirements.
2. **Modified Operations Policy** The committee discussed the Modified Operations Policy.
3. **Professional Leave Policy** The committee created an ad hoc committee to review the Professional Leave Policy.
4. **ECUS SCC Discussion**
 - a. **Tenure & Promotion Score Norming**
 - i. Question:
 - ii. Answer:
 - iii. Comment: Whichever university norms first loses because their scores will be lower than the other 25 institutions.
 - iv. Comment: The USG seems to want to have T&P scores fall on a bell curve.
 - v. Comment: If we norm scores and department chairs deflate evaluations, the T&P culture will need to change; faculty will need to be prepared to get 3s.
 - vi. Comment: If we make the policy change, that doesn't mean chairs will give out fewer 4s and 5s.
 - vii. Comment: I am not comfortable voting on this motion because the USG has not actually asked us to prepare a revision. We should be prepared, but we should not pass a motion revising T&P based upon what we imagine the USG might ask us to do.
 - b. **Women's Center**
 - i. Question: Is there going to be an announcement that the Women's Center has been eliminated?
 - ii. Answer: Ask VP of Student Life Dan Nadler.

Resources, Planning and Institutional Policy Committee (RPIPC) — Chair Brad Fowler

1. **Parking Fee Changes Question** Natalie Toomey brought a question from a co-worker about whether the upcoming \$200 premium employee parking pass includes access to the lower tier parking areas. Members of the committee felt confident that the premium parking pass would include access to the lower tier lots, but Brad agreed to reach out to Brian English for clarification.
2. **Campus Zoom Licenses** Brian Watson requested feedback on his efforts to more efficiently manage campus technology/software licenses. Specifically, he wanted to know if it was reasonable to limit Zoom licenses to faculty and staff that use online meeting software for education and public faces purposes. Microsoft Teams would be available for all other (internal) online meeting needs.
3. **ECUS-SCC Discussion**

- a. **Parking Fee Changes Question**
 - i. Question: Has the plan been shared with the campus?
 - ii. Answer: No.
- b. **Campus Zoom Licenses**
 - i. Question: Is it possible to remove Teams from our Microsoft suite?
 - ii. Answer: No, the USG negotiates with Microsoft for the suite.

Student Affairs Policy Committee (SAPC) — Chair Amy Pinney

1. **Student Housing**
 - a. Guests: Lori Burns, Dr. Larry Christenson
 - b. Fully addressed concerns sent to me by a faculty member in January. I'll be reaching out to them to follow up
2. **Bobcat Code of Conduct**
 - a. Guest: Dr. Dan Nadler
 - b. We know that some changes are coming from the USG that will affect the Bobcat Code of Conduct. SGA already has a committee in place to identify places in the extremely lengthy Bobcat Code of Conduct that require attention. SAPC is joining that effort. Together, SGA, SAPC, and Student Life are compiling a list of passages in the Bobcat Code of Conduct that need attention and/or clarification. This process is necessarily fluid
3. **SGA Update** President Hawkins outlined her agenda for the next nine weeks of her term, with special attention to public safety.

VI. Unfinished Business

1. There was no unfinished business.

VII. New Business

1. There was no new business.
2. **Steering of Items to Committees**
 - a. The Modified Operations Policy was steered to APC and FAPC.
3. **University Senate Agenda and Minutes Review**
 - a. **Tentative Agenda 28 Mar 2025**
 - i. Motions
 1. APC: Academic Dishonesty Policy Revision
 - ii. Reports: Administrative reports and committee reports will also be agenda items.
 - i. Supplemental Items of Business: None.
 - b. **University Senate Minutes Review** A **Motion** *that the DRAFT minutes of the 28 Feb 2025 meeting of the 2024-2025 University Senate be circulated for university senator review* was made over email on 27 March 2025. **The motion to circulate the minutes was approved.**

VIII. Open Discussion

1. There was no open discussion.
2. **XXX**

IX. Next Meeting

1. **Calendar**
 - a. University Senate Meeting – Friday, March 28, 3:30 p.m., Arts & Sciences 272
 - b. ECUS Meeting – Friday, April 4, 2:45 p.m., Parks Hall 301
 - c. ECUS+SCC Meeting – Friday, April 4, 3:30 p.m., Parks Hall 301
 - d. University Senate Meeting – Friday, April 25, 2:00 p.m., Arts & Sciences 272
 - e. University Senate Meeting (organizational) – Friday, April 25, 3:30 p.m., Arts & Sciences 272
2. **Tentative Agenda** Some of the deliberation today may have generated tentative agenda items for ECUS and ECUS-SCC meetings. Nicholas Creel will ensure that such items (if any) are added to the agenda of a future meeting of ECUS or ECUS-SCC.

X. Adjournment

1. As there was no further business to consider, a **Motion** to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. **The motion to adjourn was approved and the meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.**

XI. Supporting Documents

1. There are no supporting documents.

Distribution: First, these minutes will be sent to committee members for review; second, they will be posted to the Senate website.

COMMITTEE NAME: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE (ECUS) WITH
STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS (SCC)
COMMITTEE OFFICERS: NICHOLAS CREEL (CHAIR), STEPHANIE JETT (VICE-CHAIR), ALEX
BLAZER (SECRETARY)
ACADEMIC YEAR: 2024-2025

AGGREGATE MEMBER ATTENDANCE AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR:
“P” denotes Present, “R” denotes Regrets, “A” denotes Absent

Acronyms		EFS = Elected Faculty Senator CoAS = College of Arts and Sciences; CoB = College of Business; CoE = College of Education; CoHS = College of Health Sciences									
Meeting Dates	9/6	10/4	11/1	1/10	2/7	3/7	4/4	P	R	A	
Alex Blazer <i>EFS, CoAS ECUS Secretary</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P		6	0	0	
Cathy Cox <i>University President</i>	R	R	R	R	R	R		0	6	0	
Nicholas Creel <i>EFS, CoBT ECUS Chair</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P		6	0	0	
Stephanie Jett <i>EFS, CoAS ECUS Vice-Chair</i>	P	P	P	P	P	R		5	1	0	
Joyce Norris-Taylor <i>EFS, CoHS ECUS Member</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P		6	0	0	
Holley Roberts <i>Provost</i>	P	P	R	P	P	R		4	2	0	
Lamonica Sanford <i>EFS, Library ECUS Member</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P		6	0	0	
Rob Sumowski <i>EFS, CoE ECUS Chair Emerita</i>	P	R	R	P	P	P		4	2	0	
Andrew Allen <i>APC Chair</i>	P	P	P	R	P	P		5	1	0	
Corey Claxton <i>DEIPC Chair</i>	R	P	P	P	R	P		4	2	0	
Jennifer Flory <i>FAPC Chair</i>	P	P	R	P	P	P		5	1	0	
Brad Fowler <i>RPIPC Chair</i>	P	R	P	P	P	P		5	1	0	
Amy Pinney <i>SAPC Chair</i>	P	R	P	P	P	P		5	1	0	