

**COMMITTEE NAME:** EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF UNIVERSITY SENATE (ECUS)  
**MEETING DATE & TIME:** FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2023, 2:00-3:15 P.M.  
**MEETING LOCATION:** PARKS HALL 301

**ATTENDANCE:**

<b>MEMBERS</b>		<b>“P” denotes Present, “A” denotes Absent, “R” denotes Regrets</b>
<b>P</b>	Alex Blazer (CoAS, ECUS Secretary)	
<b>R</b>	Cathy Cox (University President)	
<b>P</b>	Nicolas Creel (CoBT, ECUS Member)	
<b>P</b>	Jennifer Flory (CoAS, ECUS Chair Emerita)	
<b>P</b>	Catherine Fowler (CoHS, ECUS Vice-Chair)	
<b>P</b>	Lamonica Sanford (Library, ECUS Member)	
<b>P</b>	Costas Spirou (Provost)	
<b>P</b>	Rob Sumowski (CoE, ECUS Vice-Chair)	

**Legend**

Highlighted text denotes follow-up.

**Bold denotes action or recommendation.**

**I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Rob Sumowski (Chair).

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

**III. Approval of Minutes:** As this was the first meeting of the year, there were no minutes to approve.

**IV. Reports**

**Presiding Officer Report — Rob Sumowski**

**1. Presiding Officer Activities**

**a. System-Wide or Tier/Sector Meeting Attendance**

- i. Former Presiding Officer David Johnson kindly agreed to represent Senate at the USG Faculty Council Spring Meeting at KSC on April 28 as a proxy due to the meeting conflicting with the final 2022-2023 Senate meetings.
- ii. I attended the Academic Affairs Retreat on July 26 at the invitation of Provost Spirou.

- b. **Provost Meetings** Provost Spirou and I spoke by phone and in person beginning in June and continuing throughout the summer. The main topics for these discussions included addressing a loophole in the Emeritus Policy, the Final Exam Policy, the August 14 Governance Retreat, SRIS Policy, Post-Tenure Review Policy revisions in light of USG policy changes, the number of courses evaluated each semester, and whether recent and rapid advances in AI might warrant further dialogue among APC.

c. **Governance Retreat**

- i. In May and in July I sent reminders to Senators to pick up and read the Fall Senate Governance Retreat's professional development book, *Learning with Others* (Conrad & Lundberg, 2022).
- ii. Beginning in June, I worked with Desaree Murden, Alex Blazer, Cat Fowler, and Jen Flory to plan the 2023 University Senate Governance Retreat, which took place on Monday, August 14, at First United Methodist Church. Cat Fowler arranged a wonderful breakfast and lunch, as well as coordinated payment from Foundation funds through Monica Starley. Jen Flory prepared a Qualtrics survey to solicit invitees' suggestions and information about any special dietary needs. Dr. Flory also designed the post-retreat Qualtrics evaluation survey on which attendees offered feedback following the retreat. Approximately 70 people attended the event. Results of the survey will be shared with Presiding Officer Elect Cat Fowler for consideration when planning next year's retreat. We welcome any additional feedback which might help us plan for next year.
- iii. Prior to the Governance Retreat, I sent out the Governance Retreat Packet to invitees.
- iv. I also sent a Standing Committee Officer Training packet and all 2022-2023 standing committee Annual Reports to relevant standing committee members prior to the retreat as information items.
- v. University Senate Recognitions (Pins) were distributed to the following individuals at the University Senate Governance Retreat on August 14: Desaree Murden, Alison Shepherd, Eryn Viscarra, Talecia Warren, and Mehrnaz Khalajhedayati. The following Senators will receive pins at our next meeting: Gregory Corey Claxton, Sayo Fakayode, Nancy Finney, Connor Hilly, Deidra Kellerman, Adam Lamparello, and Huaiyu "Henry" Wang.

d. **Standing Committee Steering**

- i. Emeritus Policy: Associate Provost Holley Roberts and I discussed current and suggested revised wording for the Emeritus Policy, and she sent along information about the Final Exam Policy. I contacted Dr. Stephanie Jett, Chair of FAPC, on July 24 to relay this information for the committee's consideration.
- ii. Plagiarism Policy: On August 15, I asked APC Chair Andrew Allen to ask the committee to re-examine advances in AI since its last discussion about Chat GPT in January/February 2023 in the event the committee sees the need for any adjustments to the Plagiarism Policy. I forwarded information from Writing Center Director Joy Bracewell and suggested that as they begin their dialogue the committee consult with her and Dr. Cynthia Alby, both of whom have been monitoring the most recent updates and research in AI.

- iii. **Post-Tenure Review Policy:** On August 23, Provost Spirou sent me the revised version of the Post-Tenure Review Policy that complies with recent USG policy changes, which I forwarded to Stephanie Jett, chair of FAPC, for their consideration on August 24. Dr. Roberts offered to meet with FAPC at its September 1 meeting in order to provide context for the revision and also to answer any questions pertaining to the suggested revised wording of the Emeritus and Final Exam policies.
  - iv. **Recommended Syllabus Statement:** On June 28, I spoke with University Counsel Brett Montroy, who had spoken with President Cox about the GCSU Syllabus Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in light of new BOR policy 6.5: *Freedom of Expression and Academic Freedom*. President Cox volunteered to brief DEIPC during its 2 pm Standing Committee meeting on September 1.
2. **Post-Tenure Review Period Pause Policy** [The Motion to Create a Post-Tenure Review Period Pause Policy 2223.FAPC.002.P](#) was approved by Executive Cabinet on Friday, June 2, and received President Cox's approval.
  3. **University Senate Budget and Foundation Updates** FY23, as of August 21, 2023:
    - a. 1048105 University Senate (state account) has \$2,457.78.
    - b. F15320 University Senate (foundation) has \$736.21.

#### **Presiding Officer Elect Report — Catherine Fowler**

1. **Governance Retreat** A guide for ordering food, with costs for 2023, is being prepared.
2. **The Revised Slate of Nominees** is being finalizing and a motion is being prepared. A replacement is needed Elected Faculty Senator Paulette Cross.
3. **Election Oversight** The Corps of Instruction list is being obtained, as are Election Procedures from each college and library.

#### **V. Unfinished Business**

1. There is no unfinished business.

#### **VI. New Business**

1. **University Senate Recognitions** Pins for new senators will be distributed at the September meeting of University Senate.
2. **University Senate Operating Procedures** University Senate will meet in-person during the 2023-2024 academic year.
3. **ECUS Operating Procedures 2023-2024** A copy of the previous year's operating procedures had been distributed with the agenda.
  - a. **ECUS Action A Motion** to approve the operating procedures was made and seconded. **The operating procedures were approved.**
4. **ECUS Meeting Time** Past Presiding Officer Flory noted that ECUS rarely uses all 75 minutes of its meeting time. ECUS agreed to start meetings later when appropriate. **When**

finalizing the agenda, Rob Sumowski will assign a meeting start time, such as 2:30 or 2:45, that aligns with the probable time needed to address the agenda items.

## VII. Open Discussion

1. **Student Opinion Surveys** Provost Spirou shared a discussion at Deans Council regarding concerns about two of a full-time instructor's courses being surveyed rather than all courses being surveyed. Some students have complained that they are unable to submit SRIS in some of their classes. For institutional history, in 2013, the previous survey instrument, called IDEA, had a cost that capped the number of courses to be evaluated. At the time, the university continued to limit the number of courses to be surveyed in order to avoid increased costs. Prior to electronic surveys, paper surveys were also limited to two per instructor. The current survey instrument, provided by Anthology, does not have a cap cost. Students at peer institutions respond to all courses. The ability for one student to have the opportunity to complete a survey while another doesn't could perhaps be seen as a freedom of expression issue. Additionally, some faculty applying for tenure and promotion do not have sufficient SOS data. Issues of instructor popularity, gender, and English as a second language all negatively impact SOS; therefore, SOS is used as just one part of a larger teaching evaluation system with multiple measuring points. **ECUS will steer this issue to committee at the 3:30 p.m. meeting with Standing Committee Chairs.**
2. **Governance Calendar** Secretary Blazer observed that the Presiding Officer's duties are multiple, the Presiding Officer Elect is responsible for the slate and elections, and the Past Presiding Officer is responsible for the handbook revision. In the spirit of assigning a point person to a regular ECUS task, he volunteered the Secretary to be responsible for the governance calendar. ECUS agreed and **the Secretary will be responsible for the governance calendar.**

## VIII. Next Meeting

1. **Calendar**
  - a. University Senate Meeting – Friday, September 15, 3:30 p.m., Arts & Sciences 272
  - b. ECUS Meeting – Friday, October 6, 2:00 p.m., Parks Hall 301
  - c. ECUS+SCC Meeting – Friday, October 6, 3:30 p.m., Parks Hall 301
  - d. University Senate Meeting – Friday, October 20, 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. **Rob Sumowski will ensure that such items (if any) are added to the agenda of a future meeting of ECUS or ECUS-SCC.**

## IX. 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 2:36 p.m.**

## **X. Supporting Documents**

1. There was one supporting document.
  - a. *Supporting\_ECUS\_Operating\_Procedures\_2023-2024.docx* in support of the New Business Operating Procedures agenda item.

**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)

**COMMITTEE OFFICERS:** ROB SUMOWSKI (CHAIR), CATHERINE FOWLOER (VICE-CHAIR), ALEX BLAZER (SECRETARY)

**ACADEMIC YEAR:** 2023-2024

**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	9/1	10/6	11/3	1/5	2/9	3/1	4/5	P	R	A	
Alex Blazer <i>EFS, CoAS ECUS Secretary</i>	P							1	0	0	
Cathy Cox <i>University President</i>	R							0	1	0	
Nicholas Creel <i>EFS, CoBT ECUS Member</i>	P							1	0	0	
Jennifer Flory <i>EFS, CoAS ECUS Chair Emerita</i>	P							1	0	0	
Catherine Fowler <i>EFS, CoHS, ECUS Vice-Chair</i>	P							1	0	0	
Lamonica Sanford <i>EFS, Library ECUS Member</i>	P							1	0	0	
Costas Spirou <i>Provost</i>	P							1	0	0	
Rob Sumowski <i>EFS, CoE ECUS Chair</i>	P							1	0	0	