FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 6 October 2026
3:15 p.m. – Stipes Hall 101

A C T I O N M I N U T E S

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jen McKenzie, Chair; Hollie Mason, Vice Chair; Deb Allwardt, Secretary
ALSO PRESENT: William Gblerkpor, Parliamentarian; Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Office Manager
ABSENT: Mark Mossman, Provost

1. *Meet the Leaders event*

   Chair McKenzie had been thinking about having a Meet the Leaders event for Faculty Senate, but in a meeting that included the Civil Service Employees' Council (CSEC), the Council of Administrative Personnel (COAP), and University Professionals of Illinois (UPI) she asked if it would be worthwhile to hold a larger event where the leadership of these groups could also interact with attendees who might want to talk with them. She suspects there are a lot of people on campus who do not know the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, CSEC President Natalie Divan, COAP President Kelly Severs, and UPI President Merrill Cole, and it may be nice for them to put names with a faces. She anticipates inviting the whole campus community for a couple of hours and providing snacks. She thinks it should be an evening, off-campus social event at someplace like The Wine Sellers. She will include information about this event in the Chair's Report for Tuesday's Senate meeting.

2. *Administrator Selection Procedures*

   Chair McKenzie has received proposed draft revisions to the Administrator Selection Procedures from Associate Provost Jessica Lin, who co-chairs the Policy Advisory Group with Insurance Risk Manager Michael Eddy. She observed to ExCo that the biggest proposed change that would affect faculty is that the number of faculty on the dean searches would be reduced and the requirement for a faculty majority on those searches would be eliminated under the proposed revision. She observed that the Senator serving on the dean searches was formerly required to be from the dean's college, but that has also been eliminated in this draft.

   Chair McKenzie noted that the faculty majority would be maintained for provost searches, under this proposal, and there would be six faculty reps (one from each college, two at-large, one non-tenure track, and one from UPI). She does not see any issues with the Vice President for Finance and Administration search procedures; faculty do not report to this individual and should not have the majority of seats on that search committee.

   Chair McKenzie pointed out that there are currently 145 faculty in the College of Humanities, Arts, Sciences, and Education (CHASE) and 128 in the College of Business, Health, and Community Programs (CBHCP). She noted that in the past when the School of Education had a dean, it would have been reasonable to only have three faculty reps on that dean search because there were only 20 faculty in that school, but with a school of 145 faculty across six different schools and many subject areas, she thinks the faculty should be more representative; if the three reps were to come from Humanities, Natural Sciences, and Fine Arts, it would leave Social Science, Education, and Music without direct representation. Senator Allwardt agreed that the colleges are much more diverse than previously, so having fewer representatives could be much more detrimental than if the colleges were more uniform.

   Senator Allwardt pointed out that the CBHCP Dean was selected under the set of rules specified in the current Administrator Selection Procedures, so it would make sense to her to select the CHASE Dean using that same set of rules. She suspects the optics may appear that the process is going too fast and that it is being rushed, particularly if there will now be fewer faculty reps. She thinks it would be better to stick with the existing policy for the CHASE Dean search or at least stay with the higher level of faculty representatives. She pointed out that provosts and deans have supervisory positions to faculty, so it is important that faculty not feel they have been left out because that could lead to less buy-in for the ultimate candidate.

Parliamentarian Gblerkpor added that limiting the size of the search committee could also disenfranchise its diversity.

Chair McKenzie informed ExCo that Philosophy professor Gordon Pettit represented faculty on the policy committee through August and gave strong arguments to them about not limiting the faculty representation and retaining the faculty majority on dean searches. She was concerned that his replacement following the end of his term, History professor Rich Filipink, may not have been looped into these discussions.

Chair McKenzie will reach out to the Policy Advisory Group to share the Executive Committee's concerns.

3. *Updated charge to curriculum committees*

Chair McKenzie noted that with the moratorium on curricular requests, curricular committees are not doing the work they would normally do, so now might be a good time to look at the curriculum approval process and decide if anything needs to be changed. Senator Allwardt remarked that even though there is a curriculum moratorium, her understanding is that curricular requests can still be submitted but will not go forward from the Provost's Office once approved by the Senate's curricular committees.

The Executive Committee discussed their understanding of college-level curriculum committees; they think it would be helpful to have a better understanding of how they operate under the new two-college model. Chair McKenzie wonders if there are too many levels of curricular approvals because it seems excessive; Senator Allwardt observed that the process has to start in early fall in order to get to CCPI and the Faculty Senate in mid- to late-spring.

Chair McKenzie remarked that her original thought was whether all of the Senate councils that consider curriculum could be combined into one, although the types of curricular requests they consider are very different. ExCo discussed their understanding of the different steps in the process and decided that what might be helpful is the development of an FAQ page. Chair McKenzie thinks it would be helpful to develop something that programs can have access to that would help them determine the viability of their requests before they get to CCPI or the other curricular councils.

ExCo will ask the WID Council, CCPI, CGE, and CIEMP to discuss what issues seem to arise the most when individuals or programs bring curricular requests forward, then to create a guide or user manual talking about these issues and how to avoid them. It was also suggested that instead of the italics with specific instructions on the CCPI forms, these be pulled out into a separate place which explains these directions.

4. *Election (Senate and UPC) updates*

Ms. Hamm reported that Tahir Khan, School of Computing, Data, and Mathematical Sciences, was elected to represent his school on Faculty Senate and will begin attending on October 13.

She told ExCo that Rich Cangro, Music, was elected to represent CHASE on the University Personnel Committee. There are three additional seats that need to be filled on this committee (one CHASE and two at-large), and two faculty members (Andrea Hyde, Education, and Jennifer Plos, Nursing, Applied Health, and Human Performance) are working on getting their petition signatures and/or emails of support for two of them. Only full professors can serve on UPC.

5. *Finalize agenda for Senate meeting of October 13*

Special guests for the October 13 meeting will be Vice President for Student Services Justin Schuch, Assistant Vice President for Student Services Rich Toomey, and Nick Katz, Director of the Office of Student Engagement.

The Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,