

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 8 September 2026

4:00 p.m. – Stipes Hall 101

ACTION MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jen McKenzie, Chair; Hollie Mason, Vice Chair; Deb Allwardt, Secretary

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Mossman, Provost; William Gblerkpor, Parliamentarian; Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Office Manager

1. Charge to create an ad hoc Committee on Campus Accessibility

Chair McKenzie drafted a charge to the committee, a proposed membership, a rationale, and deadline dates. Executive Committee members suggested adding the Faculty Senate Chair as a member and increasing the number of student reps from one to two. Provost Mossman asked that a representative from his office be included. Other members would include one senator and two other faculty members, one from each college, as well as representatives from Facilities Management, the Student Development and Success Center, and Online Teaching and Learning/University Technology.

Senator Allwardt suggested Disability Resources might be able to suggest student reps who have a particular interest in campus accessibility. Provost Mossman noted that his office will be involved in a number of initiatives this year to encourage SGA to become more active on campus and help them become more of a voice of the students. He said Tim Roberts and Keith Boeckelman are developing a training module for students to help them become better advocates. He added that having student representation on this committee will provide a co-curricular learning opportunity to get them more engaged. Chair McKenzie remarked that the student representatives may not be able to give a lot of insight themselves but must be able to gather information from other students, particularly students with disabilities; even if they are unable to come to all of the committee meetings, that student voice is important.

Chair McKenzie proposed one of the five key focus areas as “Evaluate the efficiency and impact of current student accommodation processes, specifically examining the effects of recent Disability Resource Center staffing changes on faculty and students.” She said this would involve determining how students and faculty feel about the changes to disability services. Provost Mossman related that he just met with Miguel Huerta, Executive Director for Advising and Student Support, and there will be an email going out to deans and directors clarifying that the Testing Center will be set up in the Library; space and staffing should be worked out by tomorrow. He added that this is part of a larger initiative to address accommodation issues for students and determine how disability services are working on the Macomb campus. Chair McKenzie asked if this cancels the information that faculty were given about the Testing Center recently as not operating this semester; Provost Mossman confirmed that it does. He added that the Testing Center will be under the Provost’s area and overseen by Mr. Huerta.

The fifth key focus area specifies the committee “outline necessary budget allocations and resource shifts required to execute and sustain accessibility improvements university-wide.” Provost Mossman told ExCo that efforts are underway now to prepare tentative budgets for the next two to three years in light of a number of anticipated faculty retirements.

Provost Mossman asked if there is a way to have the committee compile an analysis of disciplinary needs, specifically, which areas feel they are unable to comply with accessibility requirements because of the nature of their disciplines. Chair McKenzie remarked that in many cases what seem to be disciplinary needs are in fact a misunderstanding of what the accessibility laws require. She thinks this process may increase faculty awareness and that they will be eager to provide the committee with information about what they think does not work in their areas, which will allow for an explanation of what the law actually requires. She noted, for example, that a blind student would not take an art appreciation class based upon analyzing pictures visually;

that would not be an appropriate and reasonable expectation for accommodation.

The Executive Committee discussed the deadline dates and made some adjustments based on allowing the committee enough time to work combined with allowing faculty to have feedback in time to prepare for the April digital accessibility deadline. Chair McKenzie asked when the final report would need to be approved in order for budget recommendations to be considered; Provost Mossman replied that this would need to be before the end of March. ExCo decided to request that a preliminary report specifically on digital accessibility be presented for the last Faculty Senate meeting of the semester, a second preliminary report be due by February 9, and the final report presented to the Senate on March 23.

Provost Mossman suggested that rather than benchmarking accessibility findings against peer institutions, the committee concentrate on a comparison with other state institutions in Illinois because they will have similar budgets and funding models. Chair McKenzie thinks that after the committee gathers information they will somewhat become accessibility experts. She thinks the committee needs to remain a whole rather than divide into one group looking into the digital aspect and another one looking at physical facilities.

The Executive Committee placed consideration of creation of an ad hoc Committee on Campus Accessibility under New Business for the September 15 Senate meeting.

2. Discussion of changing Senate meeting time to 3:30

Provost Mossman had asked whether the Faculty Senate meeting times should be moved up half an hour, and Ms. Hamm asked for the opportunity to look into the rationale for the traditional 4:00 meeting time. She found documentation in her office that the meeting time was set at 4:00 as early as 1965, but she did not find the rationale, so she reached out to former Senate Chair Jeremy Robinett. He emailed in response to her question that “I was told that the meeting was at 4 pm because not only are most classes over by then, so are most meetings on campus. Faculty Senate involves a wide array of folks from all across campus. Having it at 4 pm pretty much guaranteed that Student Success and other folks could attend....now, given the realities of fewer folks, that might mean there are fewer meetings happening, but it's definitely something I would hope they would reach out to school directors, advisors, and the other divisions about before changing.”

Ms. Hamm added that with the importance of establishing a physical quorum before beginning the meetings, it might delay Senate meetings starting as faculty struggle to reach the Union for a 3:30 meeting when their class only ends at 3:30 and students might have questions for them after class. Chair McKenzie added that it might be difficult to ask senators and others to change the time now when they already have their calendars open from 4-6 pm. She added that keeping the time at 4:00 also helps with consistency. Provost Mossman agreed with ExCo that the meeting time should remain at 4:00 p.m.

3. Status of Senate election petitions

Ms. Hamm reported that petitions have only been received for three of the eight current Senate vacancies. She asked the Executive Committee to allow for a one-week deadline extension for those seats that remain unfilled beyond the September 9 deadline. ExCo had no objections to extending the deadline.

4. Guests for Senate meetings

Derek Watts, Public Safety Director, has agreed to meet with Faculty Senate on November 10 and asked what topics the Executive Committee might want him to come prepared to discuss. Chair McKenzie suggested that Samantha Klingler, Assistant Vice President for Student Success and Wellness, be asked to attend as well since she serves on the Threat Assessment Team with Chief Watts and they often present on this topic together. ExCo thought that Chief Watts should probably be prepared to discuss flock cameras, and Ms. Hamm asked about the Campus Violence Prevention Committee, which Faculty Senate appoints a faculty member to serve on.

Nick Katz, Director of the Office of Student Engagement, has been invited to join Vice President for Student Services Justin Schuch and Assistant Vice President for Student Services Rich Toomey to present at the October 13 Faculty Senate meeting.

5. *October 27 Faculty Senate meeting*

The Capitol Rooms are not available at 4:00 on October 27 because the Provost's Awards are held in that room. After discussion, the Executive Committee decided to hold the October 27 Senate meeting in the Union Lincoln Room.

6. *Provost's Report*

Provost Mossman reported that enrollment verifications were excellent this fall; faculty participated at 87 percent, the highest participation rate to date. He noted that two years ago the participation rate was about 47 percent, so this is a very positive development.

Provost Mossman continues to work with those areas that make direct reports to the Provost's Office. He named the two Associate Provosts and two Deans to the Implementation Committee last Friday. He hopes by next Friday they will have approved a document that he can bring to the next Executive Committee meeting.

Provost Mossman related that the administration is working on a hiring plan for the next several years since the budget has been stabilized and the institution will definitely need to hire to replace a number of retiring employees. He said a search will be held for a permanent Dean for the College of Humanities, Arts, Sciences, and Education, and Faculty Senate will be engaged in that. He noted that in two to three weeks a search will be finalized for a Director of the Goldfarb Center for the Performing Arts. He thinks Interim Director Mick Cumbie has done a great job of getting the public engaged. He added that the grand opening of the Center will be held on September 15, and the national search for a Director will begin at the end of fall semester.

7. *Informal guide for new senators*

Since the existing informal parliamentary guidelines were prepared in 2003/2005, Chair McKenzie asked Parliamentarian Gblerkpor to work on an update. Parliamentarian Gblerkpor reported there were not a lot of changes from what was previously prepared since it is based on *Sturgis* which has not really changed. Parliamentarian Gblerkpor reformatted the document to add headings and added a section on the physical quorum and Zoom attendance since these are new since the document was originally created.

Senator Allwardt suggested that a message be added to the waiting room where Zoom attendees wait to be admitted to meetings specifying that they must have their full name showing rather than their Ecom username or nickname and that they must have their cameras on in order to attend the meeting.

8. *Finalize agenda for Senate meeting of September 15*

Special guests for the September 15 meeting will be President Mindrup and Amy Patrick Mossman, who will discuss the strategic planning process.

The Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Office Manager and Recording Secretary