

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
 Monday, April 20, 2026 – 3:00 P.M.
 Location: Virtual via Zoom

Members Present:

Cottrell, L.	Hood, C.	Murphy, E.	Prinzo, L.	Veselicky, L.
Crichlow, S.	Hunt, C.	O'Quinn, J.	Sowards, A.	
Graves, C.	Kreider, P.	Pena-Yewtukhiw, E.	Stueckle, J.	
Gross, J.	Leight, M.	Powell, B.	Valenti, M.	

1. **Faculty Senate Chair Scott Crichlow called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.**
2. **The Minutes of the March 23, 2026, Executive Committee Meeting were approved as distributed.**

3. **Report from Faculty Senate Chair R. Scott Crichlow**

- a. Chair Crichlow reported on extensive engagement with university leadership since the previous meeting, including meetings with President Benson, Interim Provost Kreider, and Board of Governors members. He noted continued communication with incoming Provost Wendland and other senior administrators regarding faculty concerns related to budget, staffing, enrollment, affordability, and government relations.
- b. The Faculty Senate will convene for the scheduled meeting on June 8, which will include the formal transition of Senate leadership and introductory engagement with new administrators.

4. **The Consent Agenda was approved as presented.**

Curriculum Committee
 New Course Report – Annex I
 Course Change Report – Annex II
 Program Report – Annex III

5. **Committee and Officer Reports**

- a. Curriculum Committee Chair Cate Johnson was absent and did not report.
- b. General Education Foundations Committee Report (Cody Hood)
 - i. Hood reported a revised process for collecting course information for General Education review. Requests will now be distributed through Associate Deans of Academic Affairs rather than individual faculty. A Qualtrics instrument and communication are being finalized for distribution following the committee's May 4 meeting.
- c. Teaching and Assessment Committee Report (Ashlee Sowards)
 - i. Sowards reported that revisions and proposed additions to SPOT evaluation questions are being finalized for implementation beginning Summer 2026.
 - ii. The committee is also developing a faculty survey to better understand how SPOT data is used in evaluation processes, including promotion and tenure, with the goal of informing

future improvements.

- d. Committee on Committees Report (Lesley Cottrell)
 - i. Cottrell reported that the committee interest survey has been distributed and encouraged broad participation. The committee is also gathering feedback from committee chairs regarding member engagement and leadership recommendations.
- e. Board of Governors Report (Lesley Cottrell)
 - i. Cottrell summarized recent Board of Governors meetings, noting:
 1. Continued strong bond rating despite planned capital investments
 2. Ongoing budget development, with final decisions expected in June
 3. Positive legislative outcomes supporting institutional funding
 4. Student and staff presentations highlighted upcoming initiatives, including student-led grant funding and expanded programming opportunities.
- f. Report from Faculty Representative to State Government (Jason Gross)
 - i. No updates to report.

6. Guest Reports

- a. Report from Interim Provost Paul Kreider
 - i. Kreider reported that no timeline has been finalized for Dean searches in the College of Applied Human Sciences or the College of Creative Arts and Media. More information will be available later in the summer.
 - ii. He also noted that the Vice President for Research search committee is being formed, with work beginning imminently and a hire anticipated in early Fall 2026.
- b. Report from Vice President of Student Life Gary G. Furbee – Student Life Update; Center for Community Connections
 - i. Furbee provided an overview of the ongoing reorganization of the Division of Student Life. Key elements include:
 1. Creation of new organizational clusters to improve coordination and student support
 2. Integration of wellness, career services, and support resources
 3. Establishment of the Center for Community Connections and Culture
 4. Expansion of experiential learning and student employment opportunities
 - ii. Furbee emphasized that the restructuring is ongoing, student-focused, and not intended to reduce staffing. Discussion included questions regarding communication strategy, student input, and alignment with state policy.
- c. Report from Candi Frazier, Executive Director of Student Financial Aid – Anticipated Effects of [P.L. 119-21](#) (“Big Beautiful Bill”) on Enrollment
 - i. Frazier presented on the anticipated impacts of recent federal legislation (“Big Beautiful Bill”) on financial aid.
 - ii. Key points included:
 1. New cap on Parent PLUS loans at \$20,000 per student annually
 2. Aggregate borrowing limit reduced to \$65,000 per student

3. These caps may significantly reduce families' ability to cover cost-of-attendance gaps
 4. Implementation timelines remain uncertain due to incomplete federal guidance
- iii. Frazier emphasized that these changes are likely to increase financial gaps for students over time, particularly as borrowing limits compound across multiple years.

7. Senate Business and Announcements

a. Faculty Senate Elections Update

- i. Catherine Fonseca (Libraries) has been elected as Faculty Senate Chair-Elect and will begin her term on July 1.
- ii. Lesley Cottrell, unopposed in the election, was re-elected Faculty Representative on the Board of Governors.
- iii. Faculty Senator Election Teller's Report – [Annex IV](#)

b. New Business

- i. Resolution to Create the Faculty Support and Success Committee – [Annex V](#)
Faculty Welfare Letter of Support – [Annex VI](#)
 1. Resolution would create a special committee (1-year) charged with serving as a point of contact for faculty concerns across the institution, eventually liaising with the Faculty Ombudsperson when the position is filled.
 2. Concerns were expressed about overlap of duties between the committee and the Ombuds Office. Additionally, the basic function of the committee/responsibilities of members was questioned.
 3. No motion was presented on the resolution.

8. Chair Scott Crichlow adjourned the meeting at 3:54 p.m.

Corey Hunt
Faculty Senate Office Administrator