

## **Minutes**

February 22, 2021

4:00 PM

University Faculty Senate  
Shawnee State University

### **1. Call to Order**

UFS President Tony Ward called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. This meeting was held via Collaborate.

### **2. Roll Call:**

Secretary Jennifer Napper recorded the attendance (as follows):

Sarah Minter, Eugene Burns, Linda Hunt, Barbara Warnock, Tom Piontek, Georgeann Kamer, Thomas Bunting, Sheena Shifko, Keijing Liu, Adam Miller, Ruby Gray, Sarah Clausing, Janet Feight, Bastien LeCouffe, Phil Blau, Drew Feight, and all officers (Tony Ward, Kyle Vick, James Reneau, and Jennifer Napper).

Absent: Mikel Stone

- 3. Minutes:** Motion to approve the January minutes was seconded by Thomas Bunting. They were unanimously approved.
- 4. Agenda:** Motion to pass the agenda was seconded by Tom Piontek. Approved unanimously.
- 5. Remarks from President Tony Ward:** First of all, the HLC accreditation criteria focus groups have begun. I want to commend all serving in those focus groups for their service. For those of you that are not in a focus group, please participate if needed. Secondly, summer and fall registration is coming soon. Chairs and directors were told to plan the schedules as we did this past fall, with continued social distancing. If we get guidance that would allow for more students in the classrooms, we'll make those adjustments in the future. Lastly, there were a few proposals coming through in the next several meetings. I hope that each of the departments will examine and make comments on some of the proposals. One proposal in particular is the revised program closure process or warehousing and discontinuation. This proposal started through governance in the last academic year and got held up in EPCC. Then with the pandemic hitting, it got put on hold. The committee that was charged to revise the policy was reformed recently and so the policy will be making its way through governance again. I just

want to make sure that everyone is aware so that they can review and make comments on this revised policy.

**6. Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's report is unchanged from last month. Motion to approve the report was seconded by Drew Feight. Passed unanimously.

**7. Administrative Reports:**

**President, Jeff Bauer:**

- We've had 115 students that were positive for Covid during the first three weeks of the semester. Over the last four weeks, we've only had 24 positive cases. Next week is spring break. Student Services has planned a series of events over spring break to encourage students to stay on campus.
- We're planning a series of in-person camps in the late spring and summer, like High School Scholars, Upward Bound, and athletics. No final word on commencement yet. We're still toying with a few ideas there. This is subject to change as we get closer to those dates. However, it is looking much more feasible now.
- The fall and summer schedule will be coming out pretty soon. There is potential for us to become more normal by fall and possibly summer. Most institutions, including ours, are thinking next fall will begin similarly to this past fall. However, in recent meetings of the Inter-University Council of Ohio, many questions have been raised about it. Such as, can the six-foot social distancing guidelines be relaxed, or can we begin to have larger gatherings and meetings? There are no clear-cut answers to this yet, but all of the institutions are going through the same thing. It is worth noting that most of the state universities are beginning to plan to loosen up their restrictive environment at least by fall semester.
- Vaccinations have opened up this week to individuals that are 65 years and older. Health care workers and nursing home staff have received their vaccinations. This week, Portsmouth school's K-12 personnel, including teachers, will be getting their second shots. The county system will be vaccinating K-12 personnel this week. It is estimated that at least 10,000 Scioto countians have received their first dose, many the second dose. We have not received any dates yet on when our clinic will receive vaccine allocations or when our drive-through will be activated for mass vaccinations by the Health Department. Regardless, the number of Covid

cases are dropping. We still can't relax our efforts to reduce transmission, but we are getting there.

- Festival of Faculty Achievement has been taking place. Pat Spradlin, as always, has done a great job in organizing the event. The format of the event this year is one that Pat may want to continue into the future. It is nice to have the option of attending presentations on your computer.
- The Strategic Plan is still being worked on. It is very important that everyone gets on the same page when looking to the future of Shawnee State. Higher education is changing rapidly, and Ohio demographics dictate that we modify our academic portfolio sooner rather than later. We need to be able to not only accommodate the first generation and traditional college students, but also provide options for diverse ages and interests. It's important to offer education opportunities for lifetime learning including certificates, two-year, four-year and graduate education as well as some continuing education options. We have to do this while remaining within our fiscal constraints.
- We took a big setback this year in our goal to stabilize financially through growth. This setback has been offset, thankfully, by federal funding through the CARES Act as well as additional state funds that have been reinstated as a result of better-than-expected state tax revenues. However, we can't expect those offsets to be maintained over time. Some institutions are already preparing for the next chapter. Last spring, OU eliminated over 200 employees, including a number of faculty positions. Akron, more recently, eliminated 90 faculty positions and a similar number of staff. Wright State eliminated 113 full time faculty, over 20%, last week. Dr. Bauer is confident that we can reach a financial and academic goal without the need to cut any additional personnel. However, next year is going to be crucial for us, not just in terms of enrollments, but also our ability and willingness to prepare not just academically, but in other ways for our future.
- Thanks to everyone again for keeping us going through these difficult times.

Questions and comments: There was a question from Phil Blau about vaccination availability for SSU employees. Dr. Bauer responded that as of right now vaccinations are only available to the priority groups outlined by the state. University faculty were not put into those priority groups even though the IUC pushed for it. Right now, our Health Clinic is authorized to administer

vaccinations, but have not received a large allocation yet for anyone outside of the clinic's personnel. The hope is that in the next few weeks they will receive a larger allocation. When that happens, we'll work on setting up a priority system on how those vaccines will be delivered.

Barb Warnock also made a comment that MOT students that are about to go out in the summer to facilities that require students to be vaccinated, is a challenge given that they have not had their vaccinations yet. Dr. Bauer responded by saying that this has been brought up at the state level on several occasions and an inference was made that students requiring clinicals would be prioritized along with other health care providers. However, vaccinating these students has occurred in a very spotty way across the state. They have tried to get more explicit statements from the state's Health Department, but as of yet, they have not been successful. Dr. Bauer offered to talk to the local health department again, but their allocations are not large. The larger allocations are going to the local hospitals.

**Provost, Sunil Ahuja:**

- Dr. Ahuja started off by thanking everyone for their flexibility in the preceding couple of weeks when classes were cancelled a number of times due to weather.
- Fall course planning is underway. Planning for the moment is under Covid restrictions. However, things could change which could mean the addition of seats in face-to-face courses. We will know more in the next month or two. Faculty have indicated eagerness to return to normalcy.
- The Commencement Committee is meeting tomorrow afternoon to plan for the spring event. There should be more information on this coming soon.
- A draft of the new Strategic Plan is circulating. The first six goals are the same as what is in the current plan. There's an addition of a seventh goal with reference to diversity and inclusion. It is a very robust plan in terms of thinking about the future of the institution which will be driven by academic programs and enrollment. Dr. Ahuja wishes to get feedback from many different groups on campus. He would like for anyone to please share your thoughts with him.

**Presentation from Proctor U:** Holly Sherrill and Bannon Paulk spoke the UFS about the services that Proctor U can offer. They have been mostly working the math science and nursing programs at Shawnee State. Proctor U was founded in

2008 at a small community college in Birmingham, AL. They were the first on-demand live proctoring center with the first 24/7 live proctoring. They also had the first artificial intelligence (AI) proctoring system and the first proctoring system to use humans and AI. There were 4.6 million + exams proctored in 2020 by Proctor U. They offer three different services: Record Plus, Review Plus, and Live Plus. Record Plus is for low stake exams or quizzes and is fully automated. AI flags any suspicious behavior. They have professional reviewers that will review for the institution so that the instructors do not have to. Review Plus is everything mentioned previously, but in addition, students are greeted by a proctor right before the test. The proctor secures the area by having students do a 360-degree pan around the room before launching the student into the exam. The proctor then leaves the session and then comes back at the end. Live Plus is where the proctor watches the student take the test from beginning to end. If anyone has any questions, they should feel free to reach out to Brannon.

A question was raised about how Proctor U handles privacy issues with student data as well as racial bias in the proctoring software. Brannon offered to send further information to us about privacy. They do have a Student Bill of Rights as well as other things to combat these issues.

#### **8. Announcements from Senate floor:**

- Gene Kritsky will be presenting on March 10 via Zoom as a part of the Distinguished Lecture Series. He will be talking about the cicada outbreak that is coming this year.
- Pat Spradlin spoke a bit about the faculty award nominations. The deadline has been extended to Friday.
- There are also several Festival of Faculty Achievement presentations this week
- Celebration of Scholarship submission deadline is March 12. There is also a logo contest running this year. The submission deadline for that is March 26.

#### **9. Committee and Director Reports**

**UFS Vice President, Kyle Vick:** OFC meet last week. Jim Bennett, the Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Advisor for the Ohio Department of Education, stopped by the meeting. The budget that the governor's office is forwarding to the legislature does include a small increase in state share of instruction. Jim Bennett also suggested that there may be an opportunity for faculty to present to the state

meeting of Boards of Trustees. This could be a real opportunity for faculty to give board members from across the state some faculty perspective on some issues.

**UFS President, Tony Ward:** Everyone else seemed to be in the same boat as us regarding trying to figure out what the fall semester will look like. Most of the universities seemed to be doing everything possible to do as much in-person classes as possible. A couple of schools were planning to do in-person 100%, even though there has been no specific guidance on this.

#### **10. Unfinished Business**

None.

#### **11. New Business**

Phil Blau made a motion to bundle curricular items 11a-gg. This was seconded by Sarah Minter. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously. Tom Piontek made a motion to approve the bundle. This was seconded by Drew Feight. Motion passed unanimously.

**12. Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Janet Feight at 4:47.

**Shawnee State University  
University Faculty Senate  
Treasurer's Report**

**As Of: 2021-02-22**  
**Budget Per 2020-2021**  
**Budget Ac 10-1010-30-10042-\***

Object	Description	FY Budget	Committed	Obligated	Other Consumption	Expenditures	Consumption	Budget Balance	Expended %
56101	Other Professional Svc							500.00	
		500.00							
58103	PERS 2							70.00	
		70.00							
58201	Medicare							7.00	
		7.00							
58202	Unemployment Compensation 2							3.00	
		3.00							
58203	Workers Compensation 2							5.00	
		5.00							
58302	Life Insurance 1							1.00	
		1.00							
61007	Misc Supplies								
62101	Travel								
64104	Rental							283.00	
		283.00							
66199	Miscellaneous								
<b>Total</b>		<b>869.00</b>						<b>869.00</b>	

**Notes:** Nothing has been expended for the academic year.

**Respectfully Submitted**  
**James M. Reneau – Treasurer UFS**