

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Officers: Marcus Alfred-Chair; Lynne Kelly, Vice-Chair; Sam Paschall, Acting-Secretary

Members: George Littleton (Medicine-Alt); James Jackson (Education-Alt); Eric Walters (Medicine-At Large); John Tharakan (Engineering-At Large); Courtney Robinson (COAS-Rep); Mercedes Tibbits (COAS-At Large)

CALL to ORDER

Marcus Alfred, Chair of the Faculty Senate, called the meeting to order at 9:18 a.m.

APPROVAL of AGENDA

A motion to pass the Agenda was made by Mercedes Tibbits, seconded, and approved by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL of MINUTES

A MOTION to approve the Minutes was made, seconded, and passed by unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION

Dr. Walters asked if the Committee was ready to develop an Issues Agenda. The Chairperson, Dr. Alfred, indicated that he would prefer to do so at the next meeting of the Steering Committee. This recommendation was eventually agreed to unanimously.

There was a brief discussion regarding the appropriateness of the location for the November meeting of the full Faculty Senate. The Chair indicated that he would consider different alternatives, including the School of Business auditorium.

A discussion ensued regarding the budget and whether the Steering Committee was required to approve it. Dr. Walters responded that such approval was not required.

Dr. Walters then inquired about whether Mr. Landon had been hired to provide legal advice. The chair responded that he was in the process of being hired. Discussion ensued regarding the value, cost, and transparency of the services that he would be providing.

A discussion followed regarding the Faculty Grievance Commission, the impact of the revised Faculty Handbook on the required grievance process and procedures, and the number of faculty who are impacted by these matters. The consensus was that there were a number of irregularities that are putting the University in noncompliance of its own procedures and that we need to act on behalf of the faculty to establish a grievance process.

Dr. Kelly raised the importance of communication with the faculty regarding the revised Handbook.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Littleton raised his serious concerns about the faculty grievance process.

Dr. Jackson raised the importance of discussing and resolving those issues that impact us all.

Dr. Alfred responded that this is the objective and importance of the Issues Agenda.

Dr. Walters raised the importance of developing a more communicative relationship with the faculty beyond the discussion boards and the importance of the Chair responding immediately to critical situations.

A discussion resurfaced regarding the role, fees, necessity, function, and the process of hiring an attorney for the Senate and the Chair agreed to send a statement describing his work to the group.

Dr. Kelly again raised the issue of the improper processes behind the revision of the Faculty Handbook and the impact of the revisions on the faculty.

Another discussion developed regarding the urgency of immediately communicating with the Provost to resolve the numerous faculty grievance issues and concerns and addressing the nonresponsiveness of the administration.

Dr. Kelly again spoke of the importance of the Council responding to the improper Handbook revisions. Dr. Alfred questioned whether the Faculty should vote on their acceptance of the document.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and passed to adjourn the meeting.