Minutes

Faculty Council 6 November 2025

256 BSC at 3:30pm

Voting Participants: André Zampaulo, Rob Hughes, Michael McClymond, Ellen Carnaghan, Wynne Moskop, Ozlem Ugurlu, Alesha Durfee, Kate Moran, Rachel Greenwald Smith, Brian Downes, Elizabeth Block, George Ndege, Bukky Gbadegesin, Kim Powlishta, Ruth Warner, Brenda Kirchoff, Sarah Bauer, Elena Bray Speth, Zhenguo Lin, Scott Ragland, Ben England, Chris Duncan

Non-Voting Participants (mix of Zoom and in the room): Laurie Shornick, Erik Hall, Dan Nickolai, Brian Yothers, Maryse Jayasuriya, Bill Rehg, Katrina Moore, Toby Benis, Ashley Milam, Amy Wright, Daniel Smith, Laurie Russell, Jennifer Popiel, Donna LaVoie

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Greetings
    a. Welcome to the November FC Meeting!
2. The Core and CAS (Ellen Crowell & Liz Burke)
    a. See the [slides here](#).
    b. Essentially all students are currently on the core. There are currently several representatives and administrators rotating off soon. We are asking for guidance on how faculty members are elected to serve on the core subcommittees.
    c. Desire to reduce service burden on CAS faculty and to allow those on sub-committees to have holistic access to UUCC discussions.
    d. There are eight voting CAS representatives (three-year terms) and nine non-voting CAS representatives (such as Ways of Thinking subcommittee and disciplinary experts, two-year terms).
    e. There are a few reimagined versions. One version retains eight voting positions, but reorganizes them. See attached slides above for details. Note this would remove the Ways of Thinking subcommittee. A second reimagined version retains the Ways of Thinking subcommittee and would allow them to attend the main UUCC monthly meeting (but without voting privileges).
    f. Question: Is there space for other departments in EP? For example, in EP2, LLC has almost as many courses as communication. Are there space for other departments outside of the three listed on the ppt?

1. If we are talking about creative expression, we need to be sure to have someone from VPA. These committees are largely voluntary, but we need to ensure disciplinary expertise. Currently, we put people on these subcommittees based on who steps forward, and sometimes they have no experience with the field presented to them in a proposed course.

g. Question: can you remind us how the associate directors get put in their position?

1. Response: faculty are free to apply for those; call for applications will go out in December. So we would know--before the elections--who is sitting in those associate director positions.

h. The upcoming elections will be the first since 2020 (most of the associate directors have served two 3-year terms).

i. Note that associate directors do not vote.

j. Question: so the idea is to reduce the burden on CAS, but is this putting more work on those elected?

1. Response: the workload of the committees has changed now that the core is up and running. The work now is focused on assessment and assessment data as well as helping faculty with any needs they have in delivering their core course.

k. Question: one of the key aspects of the core is that it would not be owned by single departments. This seems like a reversion.

1. Response: when it comes to assessment of the core areas, we need disciplinary expertise (those who can evaluate student artifacts). We are trying to be more targeted in terms of those who can assess parts of the core. We have not seen any evidence that committees largely composed of a single department have been reluctant to approve certain courses.

l. Comment: could we describe the subcommittees and their size?

1. Yes, each subcommittee has an undergraduate, a Madrid member, and faculty. We want them to be closer to 5-6 people moving forward (down from 8-9 now).

m. Question: would the *ad hoc* members be invited to the main UUCC meetings?

1. No. Only elected members of the subcommittees would be invited to the main UUCC meetings.

n. Note the reimagined version allows Ways of Thinking to be dissolved, and other members of the core committees will review those submissions.

o. Question: When it comes to Madrid, how do we ensure a Madrid representative if these people have to be elected?

   1. Response: It's a good question. We will wrestle with this.

p. Comment: I think that workload needs to be considered here because sometimes we have to beg people to run for positions.

q. Comment: looking at this proposal, our subcommittee would go from nine to seven. There may be some workload issues there. Having a representative from Madrid on each committee has been helpful. Perhaps for each set of two open positions, one is open to anyone, and one is reserved for someone from a specific department.

r. Comment: I would like it more if we had a statement indicating that subcommittees should have disciplinary expertise in each delineated field. Maybe we should dictate those fields rather than leave it up to the associate directors.

s. Question: Does Madrid have a core committee?

   1. Response: Yes, they have a standing committee in Madrid, with a designated leader.

t. We are looking for feedback this month. Please email Ellen Crowell (ellen.crowell@slu.edu) with any questions, thoughts, or suggestions. FCEC will also discuss this and consider a motion next month.

3. CAS Dean's Report

   a. See the slides here.

   b. Priority #1 is student success. Note we have declining retention rates, particularly among first generation students (66%) and Pell grant recipients (73%). Five-year DFW rates in CAS-taught courses: 10.3%. Our four-year graduation rate is 65%. See slides linked above for additional statistics.

      1. Note about the slides: even if CAS students move to another school, we consider that retention.

      2. Comment: there are many students who have left because they cannot get services through CADR.

1. Response from Donna: we are aware of that issue, but that is outside CAS. There are teams outside of CAS working on that. We need to focus on what we can control in CAS.

3. Students who are undeclared ("still deciding") do not get a faculty mentor, so sometimes they are less connected. The good news is that there are multiple social opportunities for CAS students.

4. Our hope is to catch students early enough to help with their needs and keep them at SLU.

5. We need to consider whether students are career ready. We may want to explore paid internship opportunities for CAS students. Career Services tends to work closely with the business school, so we need to make sure they work with us closely as well.

c. Priority #2 is to sustain and grow our research success. CAS alone published over three hundred articles, chapters, and books last year. A quarter of all funding proposals submitted at SLU come from CAS. Nearly a quarter of funding awards at SLU come to CAS.

d. Priority #3 is to strengthen faculty development across all stages of one's career. We do not want to forget mentoring for mid-career and late-career faculty.

e. Priority #4 is to expand opportunities for public scholarship and community engaged work. Jesuit work should involve the public good and serve a public purpose.

f. In terms of the strategic plan: there are groups that are formed, but this should be an open process where anyone can join in terms of strategic planning facilitation. See the handout on facilitation frameworks [here](#) (presented by André Zampaulo).

1. These are possible ways that discussions can move forward with strategic planning. We want this to be a methodical collection of data.

2. Dates for faculty to attend session will be in December and then again in January. Locations TBD, but will be announced.

---4:45pm---

4. CAS Committee Reports:

    a. Faculty Advisory Committee

        1. We met with Laurie Russell last week to make Tableau data more accessible and approachable for departments. Survey is out to department chairs with regard to their needs from Tableau. Our next step is to meet with a representative from OIR and then produce some sort of product that is useful for faculty. This could be a flow chart or set of slides to empower use of Tableau in the future.

    b. Graduate Curriculum Committee

        1. See the [motion here](#).

        2. Motion is on the floor; motion passes.

    c. Nominations Committee

        1. We need a second member on the library advisory committee. The advisory committee member will help communicate between the library and faculty and will have 2-3 meetings throughout the school year.

    d. Rank, Tenure, and Sabbatical Committee

        1. No report

    e. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

        1. See the [motion here](#).

        2. Question: is course inactivation the same as course deletion?

            1. Response: yes, but the course could be re-activated.

        3. Motion is on the floor; motion passes.

    f. DEI Committee

        1. No report.

5. University Committee Reports:

    a. Faculty Senate

        1. We met on October 21. There was a presentation on the benefits plan for 2026. Faculty voice survey open from November 11 - December 12.

        2. It appears there are many colleges still working on their workload policies, but CAS is ahead of the game and already at the department level.

    b. UUCC

        1. No report

- c. UCART
    1. No report
- d. GAAC
    1. No report
- e. UAAC
    1. We met this morning and approved an update on language for the microcredential policy (see below).
        1. Substitutions will not be allowed for microcredentials.
        2. All courses must be completed at SLU or at an approved study abroad.
        3. Students who are degree-seeking at the time the microcredential was created may apply previously-completed coursework to the new microcredential.
        4. Microcredential must be earned at the same academic level (undergraduate, graduate, or professional) at which the student is currently enrolled.
    2. Question: is GAAC involved in this as well?
        1. Yes, GAAC will look at this policy now that UAAC has approved it.
- f. GEAR
    1. No report
- g. Academic Program Review Council
    1. No report
- h. Library Advisory Committee
    1. No report
6. New Business
    a. Need to update the CAS FC website. Dan Kozlowski will provide guidance and a contact person on this.

Adjourn at 5:04pm.