

Minutes

Faculty Council 4 September 2025

Zoom at 3:30pm

Participants: note that no votes were taken today—Scott Ragland, Christopher Duncan, Ben England, Nori Katagiri, Laurie Shornick, Robert Hughes, Brian Yothers, Lori Baron, Maryse Jayasuriya, Kate Moran, Mason Bader, Jennifer Korte, Dan Kozlowski, Corrine Mason, Ellen Carnaghan, Kim Powlishta, Heidi Ardizzzone, Andre Zampaulo, John Peck, Wynne Moskop, Donna LaVoie, Laurie Russell, Elizabeth Block, Katrina Moore, Zhenguo Lin, Rachel Greenwald Smith, Emily Hite, Bryan Sokol, Dan Nickolai, Bukky Gbadegesin, JD Bowen, Mark Ruff, Elena Bray Speth, Erik Hall, Anneke Bart, Evelyn Meyer, Michael McClymond, Alesha Durfee, Jen Rust, Daniel Smith, Ashley Milam

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Greetings
 - a. Welcome to our first meeting of this year. It is a pleasure to be with you all. I (Scott Ragland) have asked Father John Peck to offer an opening invocation.
 - b. Opening invocation from John Peck, SJ, PhD
2. CAS Dean's Report
 - a. See [the slides](#) from the report.
 - b. Highlights from last year: over 91,000 credit hours delivered in CAS. New Billikens: 658. It's a sizeable number of new students, though a slight decline from last year.
 - c. Year of transition: the new SLU president asked us to consider critical factors we need to address to put us in a strong position. One critical question was about US-specific recruiting (regional areas of strength). Strategic plan is to be completed by June 2026, but these are short-term strategic plans. The president wants each college to develop their own strategic plan.
 - d. The CAS plan will align with SLU's plan. Areas of focus include experiential learning, which can easily set us apart. We will also need to focus on talking to donors. The CAS plan will be a three-year plan to allow for flexibility and nimbleness moving forward. It will not be a single task force; it will be a group. Will commence October 1 and ideally conclude by May 1 of 2026.
 - e. Question: what role may FC play in this strategic planning process?
 1. Response from Donna: The FAC will be involved for sure. There will be smaller working groups as well, and all that work will be coalesced into a bigger strategic plan. Further details will be shared soon, but FC will be involved in this process; that is part of why FC exists.

- f. Comment: departmental workload policies will need to align with the CAS policy. The deadline for departmental policies is November 1 and ideally will be implemented in the spring when assignments are made.
 - g. Question: any insights about the provost's report that was released about academic size and structure?
 - 1. Response from Donna: it is a beginning policy that is not entirely coherent as it is written. We will get into the details as the policy moves forward. I know departmental combination is a possibility, but that does not always make sense. There have not been any internal discussions about it. This will be a topic of long conversation moving forward.
 - h. Question: Any updates about travel?
 - 1. Response from Donna: each dean will write the policy that is appropriate for their college. I drafted a policy recently in collaboration with the associate deans. The policy basically articulates what we already do. The chairs have seen the policy. Priority travel will be given to burgeoning faculty, and I will stop approving exceptions to spending more than per diems. Approvals for travel are paused until I have this policy finalized. Chairs can share the policy with the faculty once it is final.
3. CAS Committee Reports:
- a. Faculty Advisory Committee
 - 1. Membership has just been completed as of the last few days. The FAC will meet soon and is waiting on their charge from the dean.
 - b. Graduate Curriculum Committee
 - 1. Will meet later this month. No report today.
 - c. Nominations Committee
 - 1. No report.
 - d. Rank, Tenure, and Sabbatical Committee
 - 1. No report.
 - e. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
 - 1. New programs and closing of programs (through UAAC) must be approved by December to be in the next academic catalog. Please pay attention to deadlines.
 - 2. New courses can be in the November cycle for review.
 - f. DEI Committee

1. No report

4. University Committee Reports:

a. Faculty Senate

1. No report.

b. UUCC

1. Just met yesterday (Wednesday 9/03). The next time we meet, we will decide on who is the official representative from UUCC to the FC. Most of the associate directors of the different areas of the core are coming up for renewal. By the end of this semester, there will be calls for these committee chairs for the different areas of the core (collaborative inquiry, for example). These roles also have an assessment component (will work with Marissa Cope).

c. UCART

1. No report.

d. GAAC

1. No report.

e. UAAC

1. We met this morning. There is an update to the [transfer credit policy](#). Once students start at SLU, they are limited to nine transfer credits that can count toward their degree.

f. GEAR

1. We had listening sessions and surveys last spring. We also met over the summer to review the responses. Ideally, we will have a set of recommendations (focused on graduate education administration) to the provost by end of this semester.

g. Academic Program Review Council

1. No report

h. Library Advisory Committee

1. No report

-----4:10pm-----

5. New Business

- a. Location for FC meetings moving forward: 256 BSC
- b. The [Teaching Effectiveness Project](#) is taking applications for Phase 2 team membership. Applications are due September 15. See the email from Debie Lohe from the provost's office for the application link.
- c. Revising CAS bylaws
 1. We have identified some places where the bylaws are no longer accurate. There is still a reference to the academic honesty committee, for example. That committee no longer exists within CAS.
 2. We will take suggestions for revisions moving forward.
- d. There was a recent update to rank and tenure promotion processes. One of the recommendations is that department chairs should not be present at meetings where discussion and voting happen. There are some who are concerned about this recommendation. This may need to be a topic of discussion moving forward. Perhaps we can relay something to our senators regarding this topic.
 1. This may open the door for another person to really dominate the conversation. Just a point of concern.
 2. It would be helpful to know if this is a recommendation or if this is a policy. If this is a policy, we may need to implement this soon.
 3. I wonder if this policy is intended to solve a problem. It would be good to hear more about the rationale behind this.
 4. The chair may be a collaborator who wants to share something important, but not with undue influence. This policy would prevent that information from being shared.
 5. One of the stated rationales for the policy: If the chair writes a letter, that letter should count for their vote. It is not fair for them to have a second vote in the group discussion.
 6. April Trees (from the provost's office) is a good contact for further questions.
 7. We will try to have someone involved in the drafting of this policy attend next month's FC meeting.

Adjourn at 4:33pm.