

**SHARED GOVERNANCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 23, 2021
3:00 P.M., VIA ZOOM**

The Shared Governance Executive Committee met at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, August 23, 2021, via Zoom. The following members were present: Dr. Ross Alexander, Dr. Molly Mathis, Dr. Kristi Oden, Dr. Vicki Pierce, Dr. Cheryl Price, Dr. Terry Richardson, Mr. Michael Smith, Mr. Jake Statom, Mr. Evan Thornton, Mr. Drake Vaccaro, and Dr. Jason Watson. Chairperson Andrea Hunt presided.

Call of Meeting to Order

Dr. Hunt called the meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda

Upon motion by Dr. Oden and second by Mr. Vaccaro, the agenda was approved unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes of the E-Business of May 18 and 24, 2021

On motion by Mr. Statom and second by Mr. Vaccaro, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Report from the Chair

Chair Hunt reported that she and previous Chair Leah Whitten transitioned over the summer, and the election of vice chairs for shared governance committees is occurring.

Appointment of Vice Chair

Dr. Pierce made a motion to nominate Dr. Kristi Oden for the position of Vice Chair, and Mr. Thornton seconded the motion. Dr. Richardson moved to close nominations and Mr. Vaccaro seconded the motion. The motions were approved unanimously, and Dr. Oden was elected as Vice Chair.

Proposal from Grants and Sponsored Programs for a Conflict of Interest and Financial Disclosure Policy

Dr. Richardson made a motion to consider this as an item to be reviewed by the Faculty Senate and Staff Senate. Following discussion, Dr. Richardson made a subsequent motion to postpone consideration of this item until the next scheduled meeting to allow time to research whether the proposal should be considered as a new policy or revisions to an existing policy. The motion was approved unanimously.

Proposal for a Department Chair Supplement Increase

(approved by COAD on 8-2-21 and Executive Council on 8-9-21)

Dr. Richardson made a motion and Dr. Alexander seconded the motion to consider this as a faculty only issue for review by the Faculty Senate. The motion was approved unanimously.

Comments from Constituent Representatives

For the SGA, Mr. Statom reported that the SGA will consider a resolution in support of a recommendation to President Joe Biden for awarding Fred Gray with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. For the Staff Senate, Mr. Smith reported that the results of the Staff Attitude Survey will appear in a future E-Mail Digest and the Staff Senate has as one of its goals to seek additional opportunities for the staff. For the Faculty Senate, Dr. Watson reported that at its first meeting, the Faculty Senate will make recommendations to fill some vacancies on shared governance committees and will consider Faculty Handbook revisions proposed as a result of SACSCOC self-study campus review. For the Administration, Dr. Alexander pointed to an academic update he provided by e-mail on the first day of fall classes. Additionally, Mr. Thornton reported that a deficit budget will be presented to the Board of Trustees in September that includes a 3% cost of living allowance for employees, pointing to the importance for the University to receive additional budget increases in order to achieve equity in per-student state funding. Dr. Richardson publicly thanked the Administration for its stellar efforts in steering the University through a national crisis with the COVID pandemic while still proposing a cost of living allowance to employees and an increase to the department chair stipend, at a time when other institutions were forced to close and/or furlough employees.

Upon motion by Dr. Richardson and second by Mr. Thornton, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Dr. Andrea Hunt, Chairperson