

Faculty Senate	
Date	8/13/26
Time	2:00PM
Location	Blair Auditorium, Room 105

Attendees	
Note Taker/Minutes	Taylor Mitchell

Attendance	Member Name	Present	Absent
	Taylor ~~Mitchell~~	x	
	Amanda Beaman	x	
	Mark Dye	X	
	Kevin Lamonds	x	
	Leonard Fagan	x	
	Stephanie Weishner	x	
	Many faculty members	x	

- Faculty Senate members introduced
- Taylor discussed purpose of Faculty Senate and how suggestions/concerns are addressed from faculty
- Questions – Can Annual Funds be allotted for Faculty Senate?

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Agenda

Faculty Suggestions/Concerns:

- Employee retention
- Faculty Senate Budget
- Faculty Senate VP feedback and Board Representation
- Employee Parking
- Faculty Senate “guest faculty” anonymity
- Advising
- Program Marketing
- Contract Start Date changes

Discussion of Agenda Items

Faculty Suggestions/Concerns:

- **Employee retention**

- Instructors have difficulty with “conflict, chatter, discrepancies, silos”
- “wishy washy rules only applied when they want to” ***Need examples, Sometimes personal situations arise that require special consideration or a case by case***
- Faculty cite a “lack of communication” and a “transparency of Goals” issue
- “Top Down management, there is no upstream communication” ***may not be hearing about these issues. Need to inform VP of real concerns if things are not addressed. VP welcomes employees to bring us issues as long as it is addressed properly first through the deans.***
- “Employees feel not appreciated or overly criticized”
- Faculty wish to be involved in the decision making processes that affect their programs directly. ***Changes to POS are done by the system office, Department Chairs are notified of these changes. Decisions that can be voted on are brought before the ISS Committee***
- Faculty wish for college events to happen within the course calendar so that they can attend. Ex.”jeans day during fall break”
- “Classes are being overloaded, Caps keep getting raised”

- **Faculty Senate Budget**

- Faculty senate currently does not have an annual budget, while staff senate does. ***Staff Senate organizes fundraisers to generate funds for events, Faculty Senate pursue clarification from Susanna Kornegay regarding fundraising for Faculty Senate.***
- Faculty expressed interest in using a Faculty senate budget for faculty events

- **Faculty Senate VP feedback and Board**

Representation

- Faculty Senate expressed interest in receiving feedback from VP with Senate Chair presenting VP comments to senate members
- Faculty requests representation at the Board of Trustees meetings. ***This request should be brought before Dr.Bledsoe***

- **Employee Parking**

- Faculty state “Instructors’ cars have been damaged by students’ cardoors” ***Is this being reported?***

- Is parking going to be designated for Employees in the future? If not, then why? Are there other solutions? ***This request should be presented to Dr. Bledsoe***
- Are Parking passes being enforced? ***They are being enforced starting September 1st 2026. This gives students time to get their parking passes at beginning of semester***

- **Faculty Senate “guest faculty” anonymity**

- Faculty express concerns about “benefit of faculty senate if there are repercussions for things said during Faculty Senate meetings”
- Faculty attending not as Senate member express the desire for complete anonymity. ***A sign in sheet is required for members because meeting minutes are a public facing document. All Comments made by those attending Senate meetings may remain anonymous.***

- **Advising**

- “True Training for Advising” ***Expressed interest in the idea. Will need to find someone skilled at advising to train faculty, possibly success navigators.***

- **Program Marketing**

- “There is a lot of talk about retention and numbers but, no ad budget”
- Faculty expressed a need for every department to have an advertising budget or a say in how their programs are marketed ***There is an ad budget, Departments need to talk to Kelly.***
- “Instructors should be able to post information about classes and departments for advertising on social media” ***Employees can link information about their programs to personal Social Media Pages. Olivia Owens will be working on creating social media content in the form of videos that instructors may share***
- “Process that MCC uses for marketing is ineffective”
- “we have a lot of social media options to promote programs”

- **Contract Start Date changes**

- “9-Month employees only get 2 days before semester start, and 1 is Quality Trails” 9 month employees would like to start back sooner to have more time for semester preparation ***This has to do with retirement benefits and contract dates. Courses for fall classes can be made during the spring semester.***
- “12-Month employees had less time this year between summer and fall semesters” 12 month employees would like at least 2 weeks between semesters. ***We can start Summer Semester on a Monday instead of a Wednesday, that will give faculty more time between the end of summer and beginning of fall. Gets voted on in ISS***

- **Requests**

- Can Faculty Senate Receive a Budget?

- How can we help Faculty feel more involved in the decision-making process?
- Can Faculty Senate have a seat at the Board of Trustees Meetings?-
- What is a reasonable solution to solve the employee parking situation?
- Can Faculty receive formal training on student advising?

Action/Discussion Items for Next Meeting	Owner	Due
Meet with Dr. Winfree	Taylor	19Aug2026 2-3pm

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at:	2:40PM
Next Meeting Date	TBD
Next Meeting Location	TBD

VP Responses to Request Items In Summary

- Can Faculty Senate Receive a Budget?

Staff Senate organizes fundraisers to generate funds for events, Faculty Senate pursue clarification from Susanna Kornegay regarding fundraising for Faculty Senate.

- How can we help Faculty feel more involved in the decision-making process?

Reach out to your Deans with issues that cannot be resolved at the department level, If you still feel like the issue is not being resolved inform VP of real concerns.

Changes to Programs of Study are done largely by the system office, other items that faculty need to be addressed should be brought before the ISS Committee to be voted on.

- Can Faculty Senate have a seat at the Board of Trustees Meetings?

That request will need to be brought to the President

- What is a reasonable solution to solve the employee parking situation?

That request will need to be brought to the President

- Can Faculty receive formal training on student advising?

Yes, we will have to find an employee to conduct this training, possibly success navigators.

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Discussion of Agenda Items

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