

Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Executive Committee
With the President and Provost
Thursday, April 7, 2022
3:00- 4:30 p.m.
Zoom Conference

Called to order 3:00 pm

- *In attendance (N = 7):*
 - President Brian Hemphill, Provost Austin Agho, Chair Michael Carhart, Secretary Corrin Gillis, Senator David Burdige, Senator Wie Yusuf, Library Representative James Rhoades

Agenda

1. Responses of administration to recommendations in the report submitted by the Executive Committee regarding the situation with Dr. Walker

Recs 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5

- Dr. Walker was put on leave NOT for punitive reasons, but for safety reasons.
- Academic freedom or the curtailment of it was NEVER a consideration in Dr. Walker's situation. When the administration did send out messages in support of Dr. Walker's work, the threat level escalated.
- Although Dr. Walker's identity as a non-binary person was a target in the threats made, their identity was NOT a determining factor in the actions taken by the administration. The use of the Administrative Leave policy was enacted with the SOLE purpose of protecting Dr. Walker and deescalating potential threats to the wider campus community.
- The President is working on making sure that the policy allows faculty to be represented during any application of the Administrative Leave policy regardless of the motivation for the need for implementation.
 - To that end, the administration would like to recommend the institution of a faculty ombudsman office to provide faculty with representation for support and advocacy during any personnel matter
- Any changes to the language of the policy or the establishment of the ombudsmen office WILL have faculty input prior to implementation
 - The first draft document will come from the Faculty Mediators

Recs 3 & 5

- The university will work on a more formalized process to support faculty if/when their research is targeted by trolling attacks and individuals who are threatening harm to members of the faculty and staff.
- One proposed measure is to create reference materials and training opportunities for faculty and staff
 - As an example: <https://provost.illinois.edu/faculty-affairs/faculty-resources/trolling-attacks-on-scholars-executive-officer-action/>

Recs 4 & 5

- The administration will make a concerted effort to reassure the faculty of their continued commitment to, the value of, and gratitude for ALL faculty and their research. The COACHE survey data will help inform efforts on improving the university climate.
- ODU does not waver in its support of the research efforts of faculty and supports the pursuit of controversial topics as valid and necessary avenues of inquiry.

2. Deans Searches – Provost Agho

- Announcement of the new Dean for Arts & Letters went out
- Close for Libraries and Engineering

Respectfully submitted by: Corrin Gillis, Secretary – Faculty Senate

- Waiting for the College of Education committee to submit its work
- College of Public Health is still in negotiations
- All searches will be concluded by the end of the month

3. CANVAS Migration

- Provost provided a detailed document regarding the top 8 issues faculty have expressed
 - This document will be shared with the Faculty Senate

Meeting adjourned 4:20 pm