

Faculty Council Executive Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, July 15, 2014  
One Silber Way, Room 912  
3:00-4:30 p.m.

Attendees: Brady, Darr, Heineke, Kong, Dixon, Offner, Walsh, Park, Schulman, Carroll

I. Chair's Report

Chair Brady informed the Executive Committee that the University Council Executive Committee met last month to vote on some carry over business from the University Council meeting in May. Past Chair Darr and Secretary-treasurer Dixon were also at this meeting. However, not all of the policies on the agenda were vetted through Faculty Council. Those policies were tabled during the meeting. The Faculty Council Director emailed the policies to the Faculty Council members and notified them that the Executive Committee of the Faculty Council would meet to vote on these matters today. The Faculty Council members had two weeks to submit their comments, which the Director distributed to the Executive Committee prior to the meeting.

Chair Brady told the Executive Committee that he will meet with Provost Morrison later this summer to discuss procedures with the new University Council committee structure. He will advocate for the Administration to engage the Faculty Council earlier in the process to allow for careful consideration and input while policies are at the draft stage. Past Chair Darr noted that Faculty Council representatives need time to talk to their colleagues at their schools and colleges in order to bring forward the concerns and opinions of the their faculty before the full Council.

Chair Brady informed the Executive Committee that Diane Tucker, Executive Director of Human Resources, told him that Provost Morrison will convene a task force to evaluate child care services at Boston University. The task force will meet this fall and deliver its report the Provost in early spring. Ms. Tucker asked Chair Brady to recommend a faculty member to serve on the task force. He recommended Lauren Wise (SPH). Prof. Wise has accepted the invitation.

Associate Provost Julie Sandell informed Chair Brady that there is a possible termination for cause for the faculty member on the MED campus. The procedure to terminate a faculty member for cause is memorialized in the Faculty Handbook.<sup>1</sup> Associate Provost Sandell asked Chair Brady to identify a faculty member to conduct the Preliminary Proceeding this summer. Chair Brady has asked David Lyons (LAW, GRS) to serve on the

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.bu.edu/handbook/human-resources/suspension-or-termination-for-cause/>

ad hoc committee. Prof. Lyons is ready to serve, if necessary. Chair Brady sits on the Benefits Task Force. The Task Force is reviewing the University's health insurance plans, with the view to the Affordable Care Act and the looming Cadillac tax that employers will be required to pay in 2018. Also, the University is out of compliance with IRS regulations with respect to the retirement plans. We are out of compliance with the mix of saving, and the post-55 match at BU is generous. The older and richer faculty save a disproportionate amount to lower paid and younger faculty and staff. We have been out of compliance for a few years. The University will have to adjust its contributions for post-55 faculty and staff to be in compliance with federal tax law.

A general discussion followed. Chair Brady said the Executive Committee will receive an update about the Benefits Task Force in early Fall. He will also speak with the Faculty Council Benefits and Compensation Committee and report to the full Council. There will be no changes to the benefits and retirements plans until 2016.

The Executive Committee discussed the Degree Definition and Credit Overlap Policies, the International Travel Risk Policy and the Transfer Credit Policies.

They received the comments submitted by Faculty Council members prior to the meeting.

## II. Degree Definitions and Credit Overlap Policies

A general discussion followed. A Committee member said that in some schools and colleges, the major is not listed on the diploma because it is professionally advantageous for students pursuing careers in emerging fields of media and technology. Another member said there is a distinction between what is on the diploma and what is on the transcript.

A Committee member did not think that the policy defines a concentration clearly because it does not state whether a concentration requires course work. The Specialization defines a set of courses recognized by the school/college.

Another Committee member asked if how this policy will be affected by the course credit hour definition policy that is currently in development.

The Executive Committee chose to forward their questions to Elizabeth Loizeaux, Associate Provost of Undergraduate Programs, before voting on this policy.

The Executive Committee will take this policy up at its next meeting.

### III. International Travel Risk Policy

This policy had its first reading at the University Council meeting on May 6. A general discussion followed.

The Committee was favorably disposed to this policy, but wanted clarity on the following issues:

- Does this policy cover faculty only for the portion that is spent on professional travel? Some faculty will schedule a personal trip in between professional/research commitments.
- Does this policy cover BU employees who are not on the BU health insurance and traveling on BU business?
- Are spouses who are covered by BU health insurance and traveling internationally covered by their BU health insurance? The policy seems to indicate that they are not.
- Are all Boston University employees covered on the evacuation/emergency assistance programs? Are accompanying family members?

The Faculty Council Director will forward these questions to Willis Wang, Vice President of Global Programs, and share his response with the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee will take this policy up at its next meeting.

### IV. Transfer Credit Policies

Chair Brady sits on the University Council Committee on Curriculum and Degrees. He stated that this policy adds clarity and transparency to transfer credits. Another Committee member noted that Harvard Extension courses will be evaluated like all other courses.

There being a quorum, the Executive Committee voted to endorse the policy.

### V. New Business and Adjourn

Chair Brady said that the faculty co-chairs of University Council Committees should be working with their administrator counterparts this summer to draft a charter for the committee and to compile the list of committee members. He asked the co-chairs to update him about their committees prior to his meeting with Provost Morrison on July 29.

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned.