

**College of Education Senate**  
**Meeting Agenda and Minutes**  
November 10, 2023, 9:30-11:00 am  
Meeting Location: Benjamin 3237

**ACTION ITEMS FROM LAST MEETING:**

- ~~Student Affairs committee will work on GSO and UG flowcharts (Luke will support)~~
- Luke will meet with UG assembly
- ~~Luke will talk to Natifia about adding notes from the senate to the monthly Comms email~~
- Members of the Sustainability Committee will email the new facilities person about bike racks and compost bins (see 5c and 5d below)
- ~~Luke will email Hakim and David Toledo about HDQM grad payments~~

Attendees: Luke Butler, Tracy Sweet, Adrienne Mayo-Brown, Rachel Hess, Olga Walker, Eric Schoute, Rachel Romeo, Adelaide Sudbrink, Seyma Intepe Tingir, Veronica Kang, Yewon Lee, Kellie Rolstad, Taylor Clark

1. **Welcome and sharing of successes/challenges (all) (9:30-9:45)**
2. **Chair's remarks (Luke – Kimberly is not able to attend) (9:45-9:50).**
  - a. **Notes from Kimberly:**
    - i. We're on schedule for sharing a mission, vision, and values statement with the College before winter break.
    - ii. We want to continue to encourage folx to come to community events as we have them and the Winter Celebration will be on Dec 12 between 2:30-4:30. Outside in the courtyard with fire pits etc. like last year,
    - iii. We're also working with the graduate students to try to sort out the landscape of constituencies and how they relate with each other (more on this later).
3. **Discussion of January retreat (all) (9:50-10:05) January 26**
  - a. Centered around strategic plan
  - b. Tom Rosenstiel will help us build a "snowman" – ways to make this fun or at least engaging
  - c. Rachel H.: being mindful of everything going on and having a bit of a reset at the beginning. Ways to do this? At least an acknowledgement of coming back from break and all the things happening in the world
4. **Discussion of Senate's role in MLK Day service activities (all) (10:05-10:20)**
  - a. Perhaps with respect to MLK Day specifically Senate could amplify already existing activities
  - b. Maybe focus on mental health? Organize monthly community events? Could it be tied to the first Fridays? All about "take a break in community for your and each other's mental health." Also do things on other fun days (like Halloween this year!):
    - i. Valentine's Day chocolates
    - ii. May the 4th
    - iii. Pi Day
5. **Discussion of business from our constituents (all) (10:20-10:40)**
  - a. **Note on lack of response to recent death on campus**

- i. Although acknowledging the issue of contagion, no one specifically did anything e.g. canceling classes, discussion, etc.
- ii. This really hurt undergraduates and they did not feel the response was adequate.
- iii. No guidance for instructors.
- iv. No moment of silence at football game, not blocking off of where it happened
- v. Connection to Dean's Lecture that teachers and instructors are not prepared or given guidance. There is no playbook, but we need resources and guidance. Perhaps we as a community can acknowledge that we can do better.
- vi. Can tie this to our mental health activities in the Spring.
- vii. Could we repurpose space and time for this specifically, and also long term for mental health?
- viii. Could we partner with the Counseling Center or our own Counseling faculty to provide accurate and helpful information and resources about mental health? In case this helps us think about the problem: <https://sprc.org/online-library/postvention-a-guide-for-response-to-suicide-on-college-campuses/>
- ix. Discussion of what faculty and staff have the authority or ability or leeway to do. What actions do we have support for (canceling/ending class, changing deadlines, etc.)? Communication of this is key. Could we discuss this during the retreat?
- x. Is there some level of mental health training that we could all receive? Anyone who has contact with students should have some basic level of mental health first aid training.
- xi. 988 number for mental health. Add these to the UMD alert system?
- b. Update from Eric on CoE Student Representation & Advocacy work
  - i. Interrelation of graduate student organizations, representation, etc.
  - ii. Avoiding hierarchy, but clear plan
  - iii. Plan to have a joint GSA/GSO retreat soon to discuss further

**6. Plans and updates for [committee work](#) (all) (10:40-11:00)**

**7. Adjournment (11:00)**

**ACTION ITEMS**

- Discuss #5a with Kimberly. Ask for a meeting with her and whoever from COE Senate wants to/can join
- Committees will identify key priorities