

Faculty Senate Meeting December 4, 2020
Hames Room FNBA and Zoom

Attendees: Scott Anderson, Robert Bradley, Andrea Brown, Donna Caldwell, Rodney Carmack, Ross Carroll, Sarah Davidson, Mary Donaghy, Addie Fleming, Joe Ford, Amanda Wheeler-Gryffin, Joanna Grymes, John Hershberger, Katie Hill, Annette Hux, Amy Hyman, Donghoon Kim, Cheryl Knight, Natalie Johnson-Leslie, Joseph Loar, Jeff McLaughlin, Loretta McGregor, Bill Maynard, Suzanne Melescue, Paul Minor, Pradeep Mishra, Amanda Mohler, Tim Oliver, Arianne Pait, Robert Robinette, Amany Saleh, Ed Salo, Richard Segall, Paul Sikkel, Marcus Tribbett, Wayne Wilkinson and Karen Yanowitz.

Proxy Attendees: Joe Ford for William Rowe, Marcus Tribbett for Vicent Moreno

Absentees: Sudeepa Bhattacharyya, Hans Hacker, Nikesha Nesbitt, and Greg Phillips

Meeting Called to Order: Donna Caldwell established a quorum. The meeting was called to order at 3:03 pm by Donna Caldwell

Order of the Day: Accepted without opposition

Approval of Minutes November 20, 2020 motion made to approve minutes as corrected by Paul Sikkel, seconded by Marcus Tribbett, motion carried.

Guest Speakers:

Fall 2020 Wrap-Up: Dr. Kelly Damphousse

Remarkable accomplishment in completing the Fall 2020 Semester. Initial concern of compliance with students and also initial issues with people being released from isolation or quarantine. Praise for housekeeping and facilities management. Retention drop – some students commented “I don’t feel connected and all my classes are online, why am I on campus.” Some students faced some significant challenges and opted to not come back. The CR/NC was extended and served as an encouragement to some students. Huge anxiety about ability to afford college – parents or themselves have lost jobs. Very concerned about enrollment for Spring 2021. There is less concern that students left ASTATE and went somewhere else, there is evidence that they did not go anywhere. Winter session is open – all students that were admitted but did not start college anywhere were invited to take winter session courses. Re-recruiting those that were admitted but did not go anywhere – allowed to keep half of their freshman scholarship.

Planning for Spring Semester – return to learn developed for the fall is being used as much as possible for the Spring. Preference is to continue to teach on campus as much as possible. Need to make decision quickly as to how Spring will go.

The university spent 2 million dollars getting the campus ready to teach for the Fall semester. Armory is being outfitted now for teaching. Low enrollment in freshman class and midyear budget cut from the state and 15% budget cut for FY 22, ultimately 14 million shortfall. We were able to put off some expenses, instituted a hiring freeze, goal was not to furlough or lay anyone off. Some athletics faculty/employees voluntarily took a cut in pay. Good news on horizon, the

tax revenue for the state has been ahead of schedule, there is possibility of getting 5-10% back and then hopefully get all funding restored. Strategic plan has been approved by the Board of Trustees. Len Frey will take the lead on implementation. A reserve of funds has been built and part of the funds will be used for strategic plan initiatives.

Q- Vaccine, has the institution or leaders visited with the governor about protocol.

A- Health care, first responders and high risk need first. Same as K-12 teachers for ASTATE faculty staff. Unsure if people will be required to take the vaccine.

Q Health care students – will they get vaccine with health care workers

A – we can make an argument for and advocate and EOC is working on a vaccination protocol for ASTATE

Q- What are the plans for the spaces that have been converted after COVID

A- Leased the chairs and desks and they will be sent back when no longer needed. Much of the technology and upgrades will be left, those that can't will be repurposed.

Q- Flexibility in teaching Spring

A- Balance interests of everyone and the university. No evidence of spread in the classroom itself if people adhere to the three W's. Ultimately as a faculty member we know how best to teach our classes – this discussion needs to happen within the departments. ASTATE has made a number of accommodations due to personal health issue. Refer to Chair, Dean or Provost.

Old Business:

Constitution and Bylaws Committee – No report

Staff Senate Resolution Update – Faculty Senate supported Staff Senate Resolution – the Resolution were denied.

New Business:

Standing Committee Report: N/A

SGOC: 2 proposals coming through – disposition has been set and information is to be shared with constituents. 1. Addresses Prior Experience and how Faculty members who do not have a terminal degree can teach with certain level of expertise. 2. Sequential Graduate Degrees – came from Graduate School Dean and Committee – intent is to clean up language in our policy. Proposals to be shared in departments, get constituent feedback to Donna and we will finish in the spring semester. Website need to be updated, will work on that over the break.

Non-Standing Committee Report- Education Mode for Spring 2021 Resolution- Sarah Davidson- Motion to discuss made by Marcus Tribbett and seconded by Bill Maynard. If spring break is eliminated, it makes a difference in timing, suggested edit that instead of listing a specific start date, the language be changed to two weeks after the semester starts without a specific date. William Maynard made a motion to amend the resolution to the 10th day of class, Ed Salo seconded and motion passed. Motion was then made by Marcus Tribbett to change the language “with or without ADA”, Annette Hux seconded, motion passed. Question was called by William Maynard. Resolution with amendments passed.

Other Business:

1. Donna will send an email to listserv telling faculty where to access minutes and agendas
2. Opinions on Spring Break – concerns about coming back and the length of time after spring break. Parents with children in public schools. Concerns that students will go on spring break regardless. Robert Bradly made a motion to recommend to the Chancellor we keep the schedule as is, Natalie Johnson-Leslie seconded. William Maynard called the question. Motion failed. Faculty Senators will discuss with constituents, email answers to Donna by December 14.

Adjourn:

Motion made by Marcus Tribbett to adjourn the meeting, the meeting adjourned at 5:06 pm