

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

Attendees: Scott Anderson, Robert Bradley, Andrea Brown, Donna Caldwell, Rodney Carmack, Ross Carroll, Sarah Davidson, Addie Fleming, Amanda Wheeler-Gryffin, Joanna Grymes, Hans Hacker, John Hershberger, Katerina Hill, Annette Hux, Amy Hyman, Donghoon Kim, Cheryl Knight, Loretta McGregor, Bill Maynard, Suzanne Melescue, Pradeep Mishra, Amanda Mohler, Vicent Moreno, Nikesha Nesbitt, Tim Oliver, Arianne Pait, Robert Robinette, Bill Rowe, Ed Salo, Richard Segall, Paul Sikkel, Marcus Tribbett, Wayne Wilkinson, and Karen Yanowitz.

Proxy Attendees: None

Absentees: Sudeepa Bhattacharyya, Mary Donaghy, Natalie Johnson-Leslie, Joseph Loar, Paul Minor, Greg Phillips, Amany Saleh and Wayne Wilkinson

Meeting Called to Order: Donna Caldwell established a quorum. The meeting was called to order at 3:04 pm by Donna Caldwell

Approval of Minutes April 3, 2020- motion made to approve minutes by Marcus Tribbett, seconded by Andrea Brown, motion passed

Approval of Minutes May 1, 2020- motion made to approve minutes by Arianne Pait, seconded by Marcus Tribbett, motion passed

Guest Speaker: Dr. Kelly Damphousse

Dr Damphousse: Updates regarding funding, enrollment, and COVID19

- State allocation funding formula is in place and the university lost money, A-State will not get back more than 95% of funding before the formula was put in place
- Graduation rate continues to climb and this impacts numbers of students enrolled
- Retention rate of current students is positive- Fall of 2017 (one of the highest rates) was at 79.6%; thus far this year it is at 77.9%
- This year's freshman class is smaller – 1266 in the cohort, with a smaller cohort retention is even more important
- There are currently 2800 students in residence halls, move in this fall was staggered
- Fall 2020- 20% of courses being taught online, 20% hybrid and 60% face to face
- Currently 27 in isolation from residence halls, primarily being housed at Village Apartments
- Question: Is there a threshold that would push the University completely online?
Answer: There is no single indicator- based on advice from NYIT, capacity of healthcare to meet number of cases, community spread and ability to continue the Return to Learn Plan
- Question: In Hybrid teaching how much flexibility do faculty have in percentage of online and F2F?
Answer: Defer to faculty member

Old Business:

Faculty Association Secretary: Joanna Grymes reappointed FA Secretary by acclamation.

SGOC: SGOC cannot meet until all members are known. Several proposals have been received and during the first meeting a new chairperson will need to be elected.

New Business:

Question was raised on issue of copyright of lecture materials and presentations in recorded Yuja and video lectures. Donna Caldwell will invite legal counsel to provide clarification.

Reapportionment: Reapportionment has been completed, there are now 39 senators which requires 21 for a Quorum. Per the Bylaws, all full time faculty in each college are counted. Academic Affairs receives information from Human Resources and there is a formula used to calculate numbers. Donna Caldwell will ask Human Resources to explain how numbers are calculated and what criteria are used. A committee will be formed to update the Constitution and Bylaws. Senators are asked to contact Donna Caldwell if they wish to serve on this committee.

Return to Learn:

Paul Sikkell discussed effectiveness/ineffectiveness of face shields in reducing the spread of viral particles.

Secretary Election:

Cheryl Knight nominated, motion made by Ed Salo to accept, seconded by Annette Hux, motion carried

Vice President Election:

Ed Salo nominated, motion made by Bill Maynard to accept, seconded by Loretta McGregor, motion carried

Open Forum:

Update on Queretaro Campus: Enrollment is up, 35% ahead of last year. Mexican government has shut down all schools so all classes are online, there are very few in housing, and those without stable internet are challenged.

Motion made by Bill Maynard to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Andrea Brown, the meeting adjourned at 4:19 pm