

Meeting: Faculty Senate
 Date: April 7, 2020
 Time: 2:03 p.m.
 Location: Video Conference via Zoom
 Adjournment: 3:16 p.m.

Minutes

Members present: Hongmei Jia, Bob Williams, Annette Taggart, Johanna Delgado-Acevedo, Stephen Starnes, Omar Elariss, Lavelle Hendricks, Laura Isbell, Julia Ballenger, Vipa Bernhardt, Dimitra Smith, John Smith, Jason Davis, Sandy Hayes, Yasmin Atinc, Brock Johnson, Debra Mahoney, Matt Wood, Robert Rodriguez, Benton Pierce, Gracie Brownell, Vivian Dorsett, Andrea Williams

Members absent: Gerard Huber, Kathryn Jacobs, Brandon Randolph-Seng, Thomas Boucher, Benton Pierce

Issue/Topic	Summary of Discussion	Decision/Action
<p>Invited Speaker:</p> <p>Dr. John Humphreys Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs</p> <p>Dr. Mark Rudin President & CEO</p>	<p>The meeting opened at 2:03 p.m.</p> <p>Dr. Humphreys wanted to share his appreciation of the efforts of the faculty in creating as seamless a transition as possible to online instruction. The University appreciates us, and he is happy with the way the transition has gone. When asked about the fiscal health of the university he said that the current situation hasn't affected it as much as one might think. Work is still going on, even remotely and they have been able to meet a lot of the needs. Summer terms are completely online. When asked about students being allowed on campus for necessary research, Dr. Humphreys said that if it could be done safely and there isn't a stay at home order then there would be the ability, but it is an ongoing situation. Senator Hendricks asked about the giving of F's this semester. Dr. Rudin said that any F's given this semester would not be counted towards GPA. Dr. Humphreys stressed the request for faculty to be as compassionate and flexible as possible when grading. He wants to get through the spring semester with as few grade appeals as possible. Senator Rodriguez asked if there is a line for the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grade and Senator Taggart asked for him to clarify the grading process for this semester. Dr. Humphreys said that faculty can make adjustments as they see fit but overall faculty should grade as usual and then the students choose if they want to shift from the letter grade to the S/U grade. Students will be advised about the S/U option on the basis of the program and the student. Senator Hendricks asked about the exam for counseling and Dr. Humphreys said they could have a sidebar</p>	

	<p>conversation about it. Senator Smith asked about summer courses and the consolidating of multiple sections. Dr. Humphreys said that while it isn't being enforced it is encouraged. Senator Dorsett asked what to do if a student drops of the radar. Dr. Humphreys said to send him the names of those who have fallen off the map and Academic Affairs will reach out to them. He asked that faculty use incompletes as necessary, but that they want to get as many into summer as possible. The goal of Academic Affairs is to get out of Spring 2020 with as few problems as possible. Senator Starnes asked about a deadline to make the call about the fall semester. Dr. Humphreys said there wasn't one. They're watching the world to see what happens as it can change daily. They made the call about the summer when they did to give some certainty. When asked about graduation, Dr. Humphreys said that anyone who meets the requirements will graduate there just won't be a commencement ceremony. Anyone graduating this spring will be welcome to walk in the December commencement and they are waiting to see how many will come back to walk to see how many ceremonies might be needed. Dr. Rudin again expressed his thanks to the faculty for pulling off the transition to online this semester with flying colors. He also said there was no consideration being given to the online petition about changing the grade scale for the semester. He said that most of the signatures on it were non-students and they were reaching out to those students who signed it to see what their concerns were. He also said there were more e-mails from students asking for administration to ignore the petition than students signing it. Senator Bernhardt asked if there was any talk about relaxing requirements towards tenure versus extending the clock. Dr. Humphreys said that he doesn't want to relax requirements for tenure, just extend the clock.</p>	
Communications	Nothing to report.	
Committee Reports	<p>Academic Life: Nothing to Report Academic Practice: Nothing to Report. Admission and Retention of Students: Nothing to report. Budget: Nothing to report. Curriculum: Nothing to report. Faculty Awards: Nothing to report. Organization of the Senate: Nothing to report. Scheduling and Facilities: Nothing report.</p>	

<p>Unfinished Business</p>	<p>Senator Atinc said that the sub-committee working on the proposal for the Department Head elections will be working on it and hope to get a model that can be emailed to Senators soon. The plan is to move forward with the new summer compensation model. There was talk about how enrollment would be viewed. Summer 1 could cover summer 2 but not the other way. Senator Smith said that the Deans won't approve a course to see if it will make, and that caps might not be respected. Senator Starnes pointed out that some part of looking at summer is to try to predict courses that will make. Senator B. Williams spoke on the Department Head issue. He said we as faculty have to be guarded about what the administration may do to and for us for the students. Senator Dorsett said that if the Deans aren't on board with the Department Head elections it won't happen so what's the point. Senator Starnes said we should be optimistic about our chances. Senator Atinc said there's the sense that whatever the Deans want happens and what the Senate does doesn't matter, we're not representative of the faculty if nothing we do matters. Senator Starnes said the Senate isn't as much governance as advisory. Senator Dorsett pointed out that the sharing of supervisor evaluations hasn't been enforced. Senator Hendricks said to not underestimate the Senate as they have caused change in the past. Senator B. Williams pointed out that that was a while ago. Senator Ballinger said we do matter; we have to get the faculty behind us if there's something we're upset about. We have to have the data and the facts, go through procedures, they don't want large numbers of unhappy faculty. Senator Hendricks also pointed out that it needs to fall more on tenured faculty as non-tenured might feel wary of retaliation. Senator Brownell said that as a tenure-track faculty member on the senate she feels empowered and has seen enough accomplished to feel good about what the Senate does.</p>	
<p>New Business</p>	<p>Senator Davis said that some students have said that they want Diploma's to include majors on them in addition to the degree earned. Senator A. Williams asked if there are other universities that do so. Senator Davis said the students did show him examples of such diplomas. Senator B. Williams said it could vary by degree, there's a difference between a Bachelor of Fine Arts or Bachelors in Sociology versus a B.S. in Art or Sociology. Senator Rodriguez said it would be a good idea and remove any ambiguity. Senator Starnes said he would look into it.</p>	

	Meeting adjourned at 3:16 pm.	
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