

Faculty Senate meeting

28 August 2020

Senators in Attendance: Rex Strange, Brandon Field, Adrian Gentle, Bartell Berg, Chuck Conaway, Jamie Seitz, Jinsuk Yang, Kenny Purcell, Laura Bernhardt, Mary Doerner, Marilyn Ostendorf, Peter Cashel-Cordo, Sang woo Heo, Mike Strezewski, Alisa Holen.

Other Attendees: Mohammed Khayum, Shelly Blunt, Amy Chan Hilton

- Held via Zoom meeting. Called to order: 2:30pm.
- Approval of minutes from last meeting and from the July meeting
 - With regard to the July meeting, there was a question about what response was made to the charges that were brought forth over the summer. The Provost has made response to those charges. The response was distributed to all Senators after the meeting to circulate to our constituents.
 - July meeting minutes approved with two abstentions.
 - Last meeting minutes unanimously approved with modifications made.
- Chair's report:
 - It was pointed out that there was a change to the online location where the Faculty Handbook is located: it was pulled out of the rest of the University Handbook to a separate location online and stands alone.
 - Chelsey McCullough, from SGA, contacted Rex to see if she can sit in on the Faculty Senate meetings.
 - "Keeping the Peace": We are in a stressful situation; please try to avoid spreading rumors.
 - We also want to make a distinction between quarantine and isolation: if someone has tested positive is considered under "isolation", someone who has not tested positive is under "quarantine". This is the language being used in the CDC guidelines.
 - Faculty will be informed if someone in our classes is placed under quarantine. There may be a lag of up to about 48 hours, because contact-tracing is being done before notification is being sent out.
 - If a student has reported to us that they are under quarantine, but nothing has come from the Dean of Student's office, there is a new form that faculty can fill out to inform the Dean of Students and start the contract tracing process. The email notification from the Dean of Student's office should include a date of when the student should be returning to class.
 - Everyone has received notification this week that the Campus Bookstore will be managed by Barnes and Noble. We were one of only two schools in the state who were managing our own bookstore, and it will be cost-effective.

- Provost's report:
 - Enrollment: keeping steady, about 3% below where we were last year: as of last Sunday, we were at 8501 total students. Credit hours 101,723; last year was 105,074. For reference, 3700 credit hours is roughly \$1M in tuition.
 - If you haven't, please complete the Faculty/Staff Survey.
 - A weekly dashboard will go live on Monday that tells us the numbers of COVID-19 positive. Currently, we have: 11 positive cases: 2 isolating on campus, 9 isolating off-campus (some did not return to campus yet, because they started isolation before they moved back to campus). Total of 32 positive cases since March. Twenty-five students, the others Faculty/staff.
 - Most students have been very proactive with the self-reporting forms, and with telling faculty, but sometimes they aren't filling out the right information, or enough information.
 - Made some minor changes to classroom layouts during the first week.
 - Question regarding the calendar about the loss of Spring Break: this changes the length of the instructional days in the semester; how does this impact the faculty contract time? Nothing was considered with this regard, but the Provost will look into it.
 - Based on the Indiana Governor's Executive Order, a transparent faceshield is an acceptable substitute for a mask if you maintain the physical distancing.
- Meeting schedule for this semester: 11 September, 25 September, 9 October, 23 October, 6 November, 20 November, and 4 December. All at 2:30pm.
- Committee reports:
 - Assessment committee report: It was noted that that Assessment committee questioned their purpose.
 - Core 39 Committee report: moved to receive the report. It was noted that "receiving" the report does not approve the requests within the report.
 - The question of whether the recommendations within the Core 39 report should be rolled off as separate charges.
 - A concern about the recommendation to move the assessment cycle to five years was stated by the Provost, because that might be too long of a time frame, especially for evolving disciplines.
 - Rex will make the five recommendations into separate charges that we can address at our next meeting.
 - The report was received with a unanimous vote.
 - Curriculum committee report: motion was made to receive the report, unanimously passed.
 - The recommendation was made in the report that 300 and 400-level courses should probably have pre-requisites. Rex will see if this needs to be made into a charge proper.

- Faculty and Academic Affairs Committee: motion was made to receive the report, unanimously passed.
 - This committee was given a large task last year, and they have made significant progress. It was suggested that when the Faculty Senate Chair meets with them they should identify anything that we can do to help.
- FASTRC Committee report: Jason Fertig has agreed to remain as chair this semester to continue the awards that should have been awarded last spring.
- Grievance and Hearing committee: what if we were to modify the purview of the committee to make it more relevant?
- Promotions Committee: Their report included the suggestion that we move to a process of electronic submission of portfolios. There have been some questions that Amy has been getting as well. The online access to the Course Perception Surveys worked well for the committee last year. There may be a charge to that effect sometime in the future.
- Student affairs committee report: motion made to receive the report, and approved unanimously
 - There are several recommendations that should be addressed in individual charges.
 - It was mentioned that very limited timeline was given to the chair of this committee to make changes, based on the demands being made of the Foundation. More information will be investigated on this and a charge will be formulated.
- New Business:
 - Juneteenth Holiday charge. Motion was made to accept and forward to University leadership.
 - This would only affect summer classes and staff. The suggestion was made to inform Staff Council and Administrative Senate that this was moving forward, so they could provide support.
 - Unanimously approved.
 - Expanding Faculty Choice/COVID-19: Motion to forward the charge to the Provost's Office was passed unanimously.
 - It appears that there have been some academic units that have been forcing faculty to teach in-person courses where those faculty are not comfortable in that format.
 - In light of the request that has made by President Rochon for grace and flexibility in these difficult times, Faculty Senate should request that the Provost's Office should clarify with the Deans and Department Chairs that faculty who are uncomfortable teaching in person for the Spring, should be afforded flexibility.

- We are below 40% of classes that are scheduled for face-to-face currently. The original schedule was 70%.
- Charge regarding use of Course Perception Surveys in Promotion and Tenure packets.
 - With regard to the charge, this should be considered as an extension of the motion that was made for the Spring and treated in the same way.
 - Motion was passed unanimously.
- Adjourned: 5:01 pm

Minutes recorded by Brandon Field, secretary.