Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2020
1-3pm
Zoom Videoconferencing

- Call to Order
- Secretary’s Report
  (Doug Roscoe)
  - Update since July meeting
    - Mike Goodman appointed Acting Provost
      - Senate President is now vacant
    - Special elections in September to fill 3 open seats & Senate President
      - Hilary Kraus (LIB) left UMassD
      - Shannon Jenkins (SSCI) is Interim CAS Associate Dean
    - Mike Goodman (At-Large) is Acting Provost
- Provost’s Office Report
  (Acting Provost Goodman)
  - Change in re-opening plan has impacted course delivery modalities, needs of faculty and students, and campus budget
  - NECHE update
    - Report has been received by the university and corrections were made
    - Final report has been submitted to accreditors and waiting on sign off before circulating to university community
    - Ram Bala has been appointed as acting liaison to NECHE to replace Magali Carrera, who retired from UMassD
  - Kudos to English & Communications department for approval of BA in Communication
    (Robert Jones & Tesfay Meressi)
    - Outlining support for students and faculty in Fall 2020
      - Process to distribute funds to students for technological support
      - Faculty access to offices – Academic buildings open 9am-5pm
        - Limit number of department members to 50% at all times
      - Completion of Property Control Off-Site forms to bring equipment home
      - Request by faculty for classroom use will be considered and then assigned
      - International students need at least one face-to-face course to stay in the US
      - CITS & ID teams, Jay Zysk and OFD are providing faculty support including tech support for teaching online
        - All students enrolled in myCourses training prior to starting class to help familiarize them with the online environment
Enrollment is looking good
- Course modalities for the fall: 20% of the sections require face-to-face or hybrid

Timeline for Senate Special Elections
- Nominations for open seats start September 1st
- Start with SSCI and LIB Council seats followed by At-Large seat
- Election of Senate President will start at the September Senate meeting – ballots close at midnight
- Senate should have new President September 22nd

Update
- Re-opening plan updates
  - Met with Trustees, New Bedford, Fall River, and other UMass Chancellors
  - Supplies have been ordered and received; plexiglass is slowly being installed; signage is going up
  - Started testing this week – will ramp up over the next few weeks; website to schedule appointments for testing; expecting to test 1,400/week at the peak
- Budget update
  - Precarious but cautiously optimistic
  - Current calculations are based on 10.2% decline in enrollment and a decline in state appropriations
  - Possible transition of funds from FWS to SEOG so students do not lose funds
- Questions from Iren Valova re students as volunteers for mentoring work re Zoom

Update re COVID Planning/Implementation (Alex Fowler)
- Language developed for syllabi for face-to-face classes
- Financial assistance – preloaded debit card ($600) for internet needs
- Launch of COVID 19 analytics soon
- Library will only be accessible via card access
- Airflow via fans and handlers – inspected and are in good shape
- Cleaning supplies, etc. have been ordered for the entire fall semester
- Possible shutdown of buildings (LARTS, CCB)
- Questions from Nathan Rubien re face shields not providing coverage like face masks, signage implementation, foot traffic patterns in the academic buildings, cleaning supplies, and testing location(s)
  - Cannot ask people who are not wearing face masks why
  - Signage will be going up
- Facilities recently completed a walk-through regarding foot traffic
- Cleaning supplies have been approved by the CDC
- Testing will be completed at Woodland Commons and only with appointments
  - Questions from Iren Valova re process to obtain debit card for internet & opening access to myCourses early
  - Question from Viviane Saleh-Hanna re plans to handle non-students who do not follow guidelines re masks, etc.
  - Question from Doug Roscoe re turnaround time for testing results
  - Question from Arpita Joardar re student access to masks on campus

- Police Review & Racial Equity Committee
  (Tammi Arford)
  - Report has been shared with student governments
  (Gavin Fay)
  - Presentation of findings
  - Robust discussion on the recommendations made in the report
  - Vote on the motion regarding the recommendations – passed 35 to 2
  - Continued discussion
  - Second vote on the motion – passed 33 to 5

- Update re Budget
  (Vice Chancellor Gingerella)
  - Budget currently shows a $10.5 million deficit
    - Based on assumption of 10.3% decline in enrollment, and lower levels of support from state and federal appropriations
  - Discussions are taking place regarding furloughs and all options available to address deficit
  - Question from Doug Roscoe regarding Budget Review Committee and unpacking of data in Gingerella’s spreadsheet
  - Concern from Grant O’Rielly re impact of extended furloughs
  - Question from Nathan Rubien re Administration’s participation in furloughs

- Academic Policy Issues for Fall 2020
  (Doug Roscoe)
  - Attendance concerns vis-à-vis student illness
  - Impact of grading coursework should university shut down
  - Concerns about class sizes
  - Question from Grant O’Rielly re caps for online courses

- Motion to Adjourn
  - Made by Iren Valova; seconded by Arpita Joardar