

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

(Ram Bala)

- Enrollment is looking good
- Course modalities for the fall: 20% of the sections require face-to-face or hybrid
- Timeline for Senate Special Elections

(Doug Roscoe)

- 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

(Acting Chancellor Preble)

- 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