

MINUTES OF
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
May 12, 2020

The sixth Faculty Senate meeting of the 2019-2020 academic year was called to order by Associate Librarian Jill Dixon at 11:47 am via Zoom.

1. Campus Update

President Harvey Stenger addressed the group regarding the COVID-19 situation. As we work our way through the summer, things may be other than normal. We need to be working as a team to meet challenges and arrive in the fall semester fully intact and the great university

A: Dean Kendrick responded that the Library is something we are definitely focusing on. He is working with staff on what kinds of access the Library staff will feel comfortable with. We will be considering this very quickly. Right now there is no access to print collections but we hope to restore that access soon. The challenge is to have social distancing; we may need to take away 60% to 75% of seating. We need to figure out how to manage space and what the implications will be.

Provost Nieman responded that going online is being forced on us due to the coronavirus, but we push us in the direction of completely online learning. Our goal is to get back to face-to-face. We will be learning things that will enhance our in-person instruction that is our trademark.

Q: Prof. Jonathan Karp, Judaic Studies, asked how dormitory life will be managed/adjusted and what the impact on students returning to residential life will be.

A: Vice President Brian Rose responded with regard to the current thinking on dormitory life. We have many returning students so we know they are maintaining their interest to live on campus. Deposits for new students are on target. With reduced density, we may have to displace some students (this is one of the scenarios we are looking at). We need to accommodate everyone safely. The Public Health Planning Group is looking at what tests would be done and how many. Once we get students back, we will need to look at additional social distancing policies: masking, no floor events, how to manage bathroom use, cleaning protocols, and how to enforce. Dining hall changes will need to be done -- touchless pay systems, table reservation service. We will need to look at transportation and expect to see regulations on occupancy loads on the buses.

Q: Prof. Jennifer Gordon, Department of Teaching, Learning and Educational Leadership, asked about summer session fees and if students would be expected to pay since classes will be online.

A: Vice President Rose responded that fees are reduced and some will not be charged.

Q: Prof. Kent Schull, History, asked what will help protect graduate students and their funding, since their progress has been retarded due to the virus.

A: It was noted that all those progress requirements have been lifted.

Q: Prof. Andrew Walkling, Theatre, asked for an update on the switch to a new learning management system.

A: Vice Provost Pitarresi responded that we have a purchase order out for a new system -- Desire to Learn but we will not be implementing this until fall 2021. We hope to have the system on campus in December 2020 and will be working on implementation during spring semester 2021. We hope to be trying it during the summer 2021 and expect it to be ready for full implementation in fall of 2021.

Q Prof. Jeffner Allen, Philosophy, asked about the safety of the physical campus since many buildings have narrow hallways and small restrooms. There are a lot of spaces besides classrooms that would need to be reworked.

A: The larger lecture classes will be taught on line so those students will not be in those buildings. We will be developing plans on how many staff come back to campus; we expect to see fewer people. We will take precautions especially when classes let out and start.

Faculty Senate meeting
May 12, 2020

Prof. Lisa Tessman, Philosophy, noted that the Diversity Committee received this proposal late and is recommending a conditional yes vote since we are at the end of the academic year.

Prof. Andrew Scholtz asked if this proposal should be tabled until a later Senate meeting. Prof. Guzman and Chaudhry felt this did not need to be tabled.

The motion is to approve the program conditionally with input from the Diversity Committee working with the department on possible changes. After no discussion, it was approved with conditions by 51 in favor, 2 opposed, and 6 abstentions.

c. Micro-credential policy

This policy has been endorsed by FSEC. We do have micro-credentials now but there is no faculty governance approval process; faculty governance must be involved in the approval process. Micro-credentials can be for credit-bearing courses and will be approved in the same way that we follow for program approvals now. Non-credit bearing micro-credentials will be approved at the unit level and by the micro-credential office.

Prof. Lubna Chaudhry, Diversity Committee, noted that the committee finds the document non-controversial. They did note that during implementation, we will have to be careful that we cater to a large diverse audience. Prof. Reiter responded that a rubric is being developed which will include how to address diversity and will be incorporated into the process.

Prof. Leslie Lander, Computer Science, said some staff are very concerned about the heavy burden of work this will cause. Prof. Reiter noted that a department has the ability to develop and administer the program and if resources are not there,

The FSEC met 12 times over the course of the semester, with virtual meetings beginning with its March 17 meeting. Over the course of the semester, the FSEC met with President Stenger, Provost Nieman, and other administrators and faculty to discuss a variety of issues as follows:

Prof. Patrick Madden and Prof. Weiyi Meng to discuss the MS in Information systems (MSIS).

Dianne Gray, Director, Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) to discuss the changing demographics and increasing population of students in need among other concerns.

Dean of Students Randall Edouard to discuss the Town Gown Advisory Board (TGAB).

Prof. Madhu Govindaraju, who has been appointed Vice Provost for International Education and Global Affairs effective June 1, to discuss the division and his new role.

Chief of Police John Pelletier to discuss events from the previous semester on campus and other issues.

Vice Provost Pitarresi, Vice Provost Loewen, and Provost Nieman to discuss online teaching and testing, pass/fail policies, and a tenure pause policy among other issues.

President Stenger to discuss a wide range of issues focusing mainly on concerns related to COVID-19 and the campus moving to distance learning.

Prof. Christof Grewer to discuss a proposed MS / PhD in Biochemistry and Chemical Biology.

Vice Provost James Pitarresi and Andrea MacArgel to discuss a proposed Micro-Credential Policy.

Prof. Yetrib Hathout to discuss a proposed MS/PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences. Provost Donald Nieman, Dean Mario Ortiz, Associate Dean Gale Spencer, and Director Michael Buck to discuss a proposed Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree.

Dean Kendrick to discuss a proposed EIT Accessibility Policy.

In addition to its regular meetings, FSEC interviewed candidates for the position of Dean of the Watson College, Dean of Students, and Vice President for Advancement.

Associate Librarian Jill Dixon, Prof. Thomas Sinclair and Prof. Barry Jones interviewed candidates for the position of Chief Diversity Officer.

Some key actions of the FSEC this semester were as follows:

Appointing a co-chair and members to a new Carnegie Advisory Committee, which is a joint committee formed by Provost Nieman to advise on issues related to the Carnegie engagement classification.

Drafting a new Final Exam policy (adopted by the Faculty Senate at its February 11 meeting).

Creating a charge for a proposed ITS Research Computing Committee, which was created by action of the Faculty Senate at its February 11 meeting.

Approving the MS in Information Systems (MSIS) (approved by the Faculty Senate at its February 11 meeting).

Approving the MS / PhD in Biochemistry and Chemical Biology on the May 12 agenda.

Approving the MS / PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences on the May 12 agenda,

Considering a proposed Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree.

Appointing a co-chair (Prof. Sara Reiter) and members to a Micro-

The Faculty Senate created a temporary Joint Standing Committee on Transdisciplinary and Interdisciplinary Issues at its February 26, 2019 meeting. Provost Neiman set up the committee in May of 2019 and it has been working throughout the year. They expect to be ready to present a final report early in the fall 2020 semester.

Jones noted that he has learned a lot over the past two years, and has enjoyed his many conversations with Senators. It has been his honor to be able to advocate for the faculty in this role.

Prof. Sara Reiter, University Faculty Senator
Report will be sent to Senators via email.

6. Miscellaneous

Chair Dixon informed Senate that there may be a need to have additional Senate meetings during the summer.

Hearing no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:08 pm.

Present: Jeffner Allen, Laura Anderson, Nathanael Andrade, Michael Armstrong, Hilary Becker, Aaron Beedle, Lina Begdache, Peter Borgesen, Sharon Bryant, Brian Callahan, Subimal Chatterjee, Lubna Chaudhry, Seokheun, Choi, Anne Clark, Leon Cosler, Scott Craver, William Culverhouse, Sidney Dement, Jill Dixon, Patrick Doyle, Nicole Fenty, Carmen Ferradas, Mark Fowler, Ann Fronczek, Leslie Gates, Neyda Gilman, Thomas Glave, Jennifer Gordon, Christof Grewer, Fernando Guzman,