

Faculty Senate Minutes – September 15, 2020

Senators present: Jon Serra, Ryan McCullough, Anna Stephan-Robinson, Vishakha Maskey, Mark Pissos, Jeffrey Grubbs, David Hanna, Steve Richards, Kenneth Sexton, Darrick Brake, Brian Fitzpatrick, Kimberly Underwood, Eveldora Wheeler, Diana Barber, Fuhua Chen, Zachary Loughman, Brian Nichols

Absent members: None

Administrators, Representatives, and Honored Guests: Stephen Greiner (President), Brian Crawford (Provost), Sylvia Hawranick (ACF Representative), Robert Gall (BOG Representative)

Senate was called to order by the Senate Chair, Dr. Jon Serra, at 3:30 p.m. via video conference Zoom.

Minutes – Chair Serra asked if there were any revisions or corrections to minutes from April or August 2020 Senate meetings. No corrections were submitted.

Announcements – Chair Serra announced a moment of silence to honor the passing of Dr. David Wright in the Summer of 2020, along with other members of the campus community that passed recently. Additionally, Chair Serra announced details about recording Zoom meetings, how those recordings are used, and how to take attendance during Zoom meetings.

President Greiner:

1. Some campus construction is finished, others are in progress.
2. Enrollment is holding steady- at the same number we were at last Fall (2019), about 18 ahead.
3. 4 Active cases of Covid on campus as of today.
 - a. .5%, only student population
4. The governor is putting forth a directive for a small proportion of people on campus 3-5% approximately to be tested on a weekly basis.
 - a. It will take about 3-4 weeks to begin this process.
 - b. An ongoing discussion is ensuing on this topic.
 - c. State will (apparently) be paying for the testing.
 - d. Will likely be the rapid test.
5. *Questions from the floor:* Ryan McCullough, Anna Stephan-Robinson, Jeffrey Grubbs, and Robert Gall

Provost Crawford:

1. New program will be proposed soon
2. We will likely have need to go remote again soon for a period of time or longer. Faculty should be prepared

Faculty Senate Minutes – September 15, 2020

3. Some technology is available on campus, more is being ordered (i.e. such as “swivels” or “owls” that follow the faculty and provide a microphone on their person).
4. Faculty should be getting Spring 2021 semesters out to Chairs and Deans, and Chairs and Deans; will need to submit this to Maureen in the Provost’s Office by 9/23.
5. Faculty should anticipate students (or themselves) not being able to be face-to-face in person at some point in time in the Spring semester.
 - a. Please be prepared for anything to happen; have plans in place.
 - b. Courses should list whether they will be online, hybrid, remote, or in-person, so please indicate that to your Chair/Dean.
 - c. Faculty should be able to keep the same number of sections and the caps on courses (in correspondence with expectations for format, such as online, hybrid, etc.). Some students should be remote and others in-person for large classes that cannot accommodate spacing out the number of students in the room.
6. Campus won’t have money for conferences, though the hope is to secure some funds for remote/Zoom conference fees.
7. *Questions from the floor:* Jon Serra, Ryan McCullough, Vishahka Maskey, Jeffrey Grubbs, Ken Sexton

Dr. Sylvia Hawranick – ACF Representative:

1. Representatives met for the remote retreat in the Summer of 2020
2. Two participants in Great Teachers Seminar (remote meeting):
 - a. Brian Fitzpatrick and Aron Massey
3. HEPC has put forth an initiative to get higher education access to academic journals. A project in development for the past 2-3 years.
 - a. Each higher education institution was having to pay individually for access to academic journals.
 - b. HEPC is working to get all higher education institutions access to a shared license/access code so that each institution can save some money and gain access to additional journals.
4. Training, such as open-educational resource training (Assistant Provost Jeremy Larance), has been involved with this initiative.
5. Currently, many of the legislative issues being discussed are at a stand-still.
 - a. First initiative identified as important was International Education. ACF is working to get that initiative to move forward.
 - i. Recruitment and retention efforts for international students.

Faculty Senate Minutes – September 15, 2020

- ii. Might include partnerships between institutions within the State, at National level, or possibly International institutions.
6. Request from Sylvia: If there are any issues faculty would like Sylvia to bring up at the ACF meeting on Friday, September 18, please email her to let her know.
7. *Questions from the floor:* Jeffrey Grubbs, Brian Fitzpatrick, Jon Serra, Vishahka Maskey

Dr. Robert Gall – Board of Governors Faculty Representative:

1. Dr. Courtney Huffman was appointed to continue to be the faculty representative for the WLU Presidential search committee.
2. Asked for questions related to his emailed report to faculty earlier in the month.
3. *Questions from the floor:* Vishahka Maskey

Committee reports:

Policies - Dr. Diana Barber, Chair

1. Still learning/taking on new role and responsibilities. Will meet with interested faculty members soon.

Questions from the floor: None

Space Utilization – Dr. Kimberly Underwood, Chair

1. Will be sending an email out to past members and potential new members soon.
2. Will be undertaking an updated audit of classroom spaces (i.e. technology in the classrooms, how many students the room can hold, etc.) at some point during the 2020-2021 academic year. This information will be shared with Provost's Office for use with scheduling classes, etc.

Action Item:

Election – Finance Committee Chair

- Dr. Underwood nominated Dr. Wheeler to be Finance chair. Nomination was accepted by Dr. Wheeler. Chair Serra asked for any other nominations; none were offered.

Faculty Senate Minutes – September 15, 2020

- Chair Serra took a voice vote. All that voiced a vote were in favor of Dr. Wheeler as Finance Committee Chair. No “nays.”

Faculty Forum:

- Various topics were identified and discussed.

Discussion:

A motion to adjourn was made by Chair Serra and was seconded by Dr. McCullough. The Senate adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Underwood, Senate Secretary

DRAFT