

The University of Arizona®
Faculty Senate Executive Committee
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Minutes: October 19, 2020

3:00-5:00 p.m.

VIA ZOOM

<https://arizona.zoom.us/j/9503583576>

Present: M Hingle (Chair), M Brewer, B Brummund, J Dudas, J Durán, T Dysart, L Folks, N Ghosh, P Gordon, R Hammer, S Helm, L Hudson, J Lawrence, W Neumann, D Ohala, S Sen, T Singleton, J Summers

Absent: S Troutman

Guest: J Frumkin

Call to Order

Chair Hingle called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes of September 21, 2020

The minutes of September 21, 2020 were approved.

UPDATES

Provost – Liesl Folks

Folks reported that she is working on a plan for expansion of in-person instruction, and is grateful for the people working on the Pandemic Academic Coordination Workgroup. Pandemic data is holding at low spread. Folks put out a request to Summers and Romero to devise a definition of roles and responsibilities for each of UArizona's faculty cohorts, and what value each brings to the institution, separately and collectively. Summers responded that the APPC would ultimately be tasked with that responsibility. Professional development would be offered in lieu of sabbaticals for Career-track faculty members. Ohala added that the Career-track faculty group is vulnerable, and Folks offered that the titling changes being worked on for consistency throughout colleges will be beneficial for that group. Currently, there are 1,300 titles for Career-track faculty, and ambiguity for roles and responsibilities is prevalent. Hiring contracts for Career-track faculty should be consistent with one-year, two-year, and then three-year renewable contracts. A statement of excellence for Career-track faculty is absent. Gordon said that less than 1/6 of tenured faculty take sabbaticals. Ghosh said that sabbaticals in the College of Science are resource issues; the college cannot operate effectively with faculty leaving for extended periods of time. Brummund said that updated classifications for Career-track faculty would be helpful from an IT perspective. Hingle asked if in-person/flex instruction will be optional? Folks

responded that more in-person classes are needed, and the student cohort for each class is determinant. A majority of students' preference was the deciding factor, leaving out those who didn't speak up, and in response, an anonymous survey to students will be devised to better assess the student population that isn't comfortable with online delivery. Hudson asked about the end of the furlough. Folks hasn't had a chance to check with CFO Rulney who has been out of the office. Hudson asked about increased insurance costs. Folks responded that it would be preferable for the Universities to break off from the state system, and no fast resolution is tangible within the coming year. Brummund said that the Universities were not involved in the negotiating process as was done in previous years. Exiting the state benefit programs will be preferable, but finding alternate paths is political. Gordon asked if Banner Health could be part of the RFP process in the future? Brummund said that colleagues in the College of Public Health would have better avenues for alternate paths. Lawrence said that staff are extremely upset about the insurance changes, and the explanation about the different tiers for doctors is confusing.

SPBAC – Sabrina Helm and Barry Brummund

Helm reported that the committee will be discussing medical benefits at its upcoming meeting with a presentation by Chief Human Resources Officer, Helena Rodrigues. At the last meeting, the committee discussed the furlough and made a recommendation to the President to end the furlough earlier than reported and review the implications of a staggered furlough. An announcement for an early furlough end has not been announced. College budgets are at stake with an early furlough end. Hudson asked about SPBAC's role in the RCM discussion. Helm responded that meetings will be designated to looking at other budget models before the end of the year, but more important issues have been at the forefront recently. Ghosh asked if the announcement for the furlough end date will be announced prior to the upcoming Faculty Senate meeting on November 2, 2020. Summers responded that hopefully, yes, and anticipates having CFO Rulney available for questions at that meeting. Durán mentioned that it would be helpful if the shared governance bodies involved in the recommendation/decision-process were mentioned in the announcements to ensure the campus at-large that shared governance principles were utilized.

President's Office – Secretary of the University, Jon Dudas

Dudas reported that proposal approval with ABOR is coming into question between the in-state Universities. Discussion has surfaced with programs offered in other cities that the University feels it has jurisdiction over. An example would be a UArizona program offered in Maricopa County, or other parts of the state. ABOR needs to hold all in-state Universities to the same standards. Tucson City Councilman Kozachik is pushing for mandatory testing of all UArizona students, which is ill-advised due to privacy, legal, civil rights, and constitutional concerns. Ghosh agrees, but feels that people coming to campus should be regularly tested. The Mayor and County have been supportive of the way the University is handling testing and tracing to date. Hudson asked when the new financial report would be available, and Dudas didn't have an exact date.

Chair of the Faculty – Jessica Summers

Summers reported that C11 is working on a survey to be delivered to campus the last week of October concerning leadership and communication. The survey will be targeted to find out how certain groups on campus feel about the senior leadership's recent efforts with the aforementioned categories. GFFAC is working on a follow-up report, but delivery is dependent on the furlough end date being disclosed. Summers will be on sabbatical for the spring semester.

C11 – Javier Durán

Durán reported that the survey the committee is working on will be coming from faculty leadership, as well as C11. All constituencies on campus will be able to participate.

Vice Chair of the Faculty – Melanie Hingle

No report.

Faculty Senator – Bill Neumann

Neumann reported that the *ad hoc* committee on Career-track Faculty is active, and a working subgroup is looking at cleaning up titling. The first meeting of the *ad hoc* committee will be held on Monday, October 26, 2020.

Faculty Senator – Leila Hudson

Hudson reported that the Global Campus Strategic Advisory Committee (GSCAC) has met four or five times since its implementation. The committee has interviewed Vice Provost for Online and Distance Education, Craig Wilson, and Provost Folks. A report will be delivered at a Special Session of Faculty Senate on November 23, 2020.

Secretary of the Faculty – Michael Brewer

Brewer talked about the Career-track faculty retitling and secondary appointments. Hudson asked if a change to the voting members of Faculty Senate would go through the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. Brewer answered in the affirmative.

IT Liason – Jeremy Frumkin

Frumkin reported that some Cortana emails were received among campus users and was initiated by Microsoft to all its users. UITS may look into offerings in the future, but for now, the notifications have been turned off. Ironport spam notifications were received today via Cisco, and were also blocked. Dysart asked about Microsoft 365 platform and licensing. Frumkin responded that licensing prices have increased and Microsoft is pushing to use online apps. Frumkin asked if he could better explain through email communication.

Graduate Council – Ron Hammer

Hammer reported that he was in the process of finding out more information on the Graduate Faculty Policy that was reviewed by Faculty Senate in November 2019. Hammer will discuss the best course of action with the Faculty Officers at Faculty Senate office hours.

Undergraduate Council – Neel Ghosh

Ghosh reported that the UG Minor in Climate Change and Society and the UG Minor in Real Estate will be coming forward for approval at the November 2, 2020 Faculty Senate meeting.

APAC/CSC – Jennifer Lawrence

Lawrence reported that the upcoming health insurance increases are concerning to staff who are already burdened by the furlough constraints. The tier structure is not clearly explained within the plans, and is highly confusing as to how deductibles are met between each tier. The auxiliary outsourcing will be an upcoming discussion since staff in the auxiliary areas will most likely be laid off if outsourcing comes to fruition. Lawrence suggested more shared governance communication to campus.

ASUA – Tara Singleton

Singleton reported that ASUA will have an early voting location in the Student Union. Outsourcing is also of concern to UArizona students

GPSC – Shilpita Sen

Sen reported that GPSC is focusing on national level advocacy legislative action days for the past two weeks. GPSC is working with STAGE, an organization that supports R1 Universities, and UArizona fared well with its mental health support for students. GPSC will be focusing on how to hold the upcoming spring Student Showcase on campus.

RPC – Paul Gordon

Gordon reported that the second meeting of the semester is forthcoming shortly, and RII will be asked to join a meeting with the committee in the near future to discuss core facilities.

APPC – Ron Hammer and Tessa Dysart

Hammer reported that Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, Andrea Romero, joined the last meeting to discuss proposed changes to the Annual Performance Review process.

SAPC – Diane Ohala

Ohala reported that the committee is planning to broadcast student mental health resources via D2L. Ohala is working with Student Regent, Anthony Rusk's Student Basic Needs Coalition, which he reported on at the October 5, 2020 Faculty Senate meeting. The Basic Needs Coalition is at the local level and the Workgroup is at the ABOR level. Ghosh asked about student loans with computers being short-term. Brewer reported that loans have been extended for the semester. Ohala reported that students engaged in lab courses who do not want to return to campus have been saddled with expenditures that were not expected or cannot afford. Many students have asked the Campus Pantry for help with lab supplies like rubbing alcohol and hand sanitizers.

Committee for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – Stephanie Troutman

Troutman was absent.

Other business

There was no other business.

Review agenda for the November 2, 2020 Faculty Senate Meeting

The item was deferred.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Recorded and transcribed by Jane Cherry