

The University of Arizona®
Faculty Senate Executive Committee
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Minutes: February 15, 2021

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, R Hammer, S Helm, L Hudson, J Lawrence, W Neumann, D Ohala, S Sen, T Singleton,

Absent: P Gordon, J Summers (sabbatical), and S Troutman

Guests: A Brokamp, J Curry, J Frumkin, and K Urquidez

Call to Order

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

Approval of the Minutes of January 11, 2021

The minutes of January 11, 2021 were approved.

UPDATES

Enrollment Management – Vice President, Kasey Urquidez

Urquidez explained why student enrollment has increased while revenue has declined. Shifting demand in higher education encompasses a decrease in high school graduates starting in 2025, an increased demand for online and flexible degree offerings, as well as an increasing a desire for lifelong learning. A decrease in state funding has had an impact on the tuition costs and fees charged. Enrollment numbers have grown, but net tuition revenue per student has declined as students change modalities to meet goals. UArizona has had to be competitive bringing in the types of students that relate to the Strategic Plan. A decrease in revenue for main campus has been due in part to some discounting, as well as a change in headcount. Arizona Online had an increase. UArizona, like its peers, uses aid to build academically strong and diverse classes. Affordability is cited as the main reason a student chose not to attend UArizona. Flagship universities in forty-six states grew their non-need-based aid by 65% over the past five years. Public universities have increased institutional aid for first-year undergraduates from 35% in 2005-06 to 54% in 2017-18. Recent aid strategies in 2013-14 were to lower discount rates from 30% to 23% with the Never Settle Strategic Plan, which reduced affordability while negatively impacting retention and completion. In 2016-17, UArizona increased aid that was going to students who had large unmet needs. The first-year incoming classes from 2018 to 2020 have shown a steady increase in 3.75 GPA or higher students, with fall 2020 being the most ethnically diverse incoming first-year class in

history with the highest ever first-to-second year retention rate of 85.5%. All public and private institutions are continuing to discount and bringing in less revenue because they are discounting at higher levels. Moving forward, there will be a decline in the number of traditional-aged students based on birth rates, and we will see a significant increase in 2025-2026. The number of first-generation students that will be coming of college age will need institutional assistance to assure successful completion to graduation. UArizona must continue to be competitive with the traditional University experience while acknowledging growth will be limited, and strengthen our approach to untapped markets and opportunities domestically and globally. Committee members discussed.

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

Dudas reported that last Friday, 1,791 COVID-19 tests were administered with only two positive results. Positive cases are on the decline. There has been a slight decrease in people coming in for testing. UArizona has been a county point of distribution for four weeks, and as of Wednesday of last week, approximately 12,000 vaccines have been administered. The state has requested UArizona to be a state point of distribution with 24/7 accessibility, and vaccine distribution will increase from 800 to 1,600 daily. The goal will be 5-8,000 people vaccinated daily. The U.S. News and World Report numbers were released, and it reported that UArizona is nineteen among public Universities and number thirty-four among all Universities. Number one in Astronomy, number two in Astrophysics, number two for high Hispanic enrollment. The numbers are significant with the University's discussion with ABOR on TRIF dollars, which are no longer going to be protected. Discussion is underway about how to distribute TRIF funds, but the political formula dates back to 2002 being 40% for Arizona State University, 40% for UArizona, and 20% for Northern Arizona University. Arizona Online has been ranked number seven in the nation, with Arizona State University ranked at number six. UArizona has grown from being unranked in 2016 to number seven in the nation and Arizona residents have two top-ten online programs in the nation. UArizona was named by Forbes Magazine as the best employer in Arizona and number sixteen in the nation among higher education institutions.

APPC – Ron Hammer and Tessa Dysart

Dysart reported that the committee met last week to review a couple of items. The first being the annual review process being modified. The committee had concerns about the peer review committee's feedback going directly to the faculty member. Neumann spoke to the committee about the Career Track faculty title changes and will report to Faculty Senate on March 1, 2021.

Ad Hoc Committee on Career Track Faculty – Co-chair Bill Neumann

Neumann reported that the committee has a meeting next Monday and will report at the upcoming Faculty Senate meeting on March 1, 2021. The next steps will be to move the recommendations to the Provost's Office.

Provost – Liesl Folks

Folks reported that campus is gearing up for the February 22, 2021 roll-out of Phase Two instruction, which is quite complicated with numerous facets to make sure everyone is ready. Infection rates are low, which coincides with the decision to partially offer in-person instruction with some classes. Ghosh asked what instructors are supposed to do for in-person classes when students are not present. Folks responded that instructors should show leniency to those students who may be quarantined or unavailable to attend in person. Folks will communicate to deans, directors, and department heads. Hingle asked about the Gen Ed program approval process and revisions and where UWGEC and UGC fit in. Folks responded that the machinery piece needs to be adjusted and modified in order to support the program moving forward, but the mechanical process of the Gen Ed program needs to be reviewed and

approved. Things are a bit ambiguous at present about how to move the program forward, and Curry weighed in that the actual process flow wasn't discussed at today's meeting, although UWGEC has agreed to move the program forward. The program is currently being reviewed by the Curriculum and Policies Committee. Feedback has been submitted back to Miller-Cochran, and an extra meeting next week is scheduled with UGC, during which time an approval vote will take place. Ghosh said the Registrar will need everything in place by summer for the program courses to be assigned and for the new Gen Ed program to be available for spring 2022. Folks added that the new Gen Ed program is being incorporated into the new AIB funding principles.

Secretary of the Faculty – Michael Brewer

Brewer reported that revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws include a revamp of how committees are populated, in alignment with the Memorandum of Understanding. Governance committees such as UGC and GC should ultimately be populated with faculty who are elected and/or appointed by a shared governance body or elected officer. The other idea was to install *ex officio* members from Faculty Senate on each of the committees, so that a more streamlined process for approvals would be acceptable to Senate. Ghosh suggested having parameters in place for designating the number of Senators assigned to each committee.

IT Liaison – Jeremy Frumkin

Frumkin referenced the letter from Professor Downing concerning the most recent General Faculty election and his assertions that Qualtrics was not a viable tool to conduct secure elections. Frumkin said that he wasn't familiar with the logic on election surveys, but will employ a team to look into the concerns.

SPBAC – Sabrina Helm and Barry Brummund

Helm reported that the committee discussed RCM and the AIB transition, with one change in AIB where all revenue generated from courses would be treated equally independent of the delivery platform. Student credit hours would be assigned by course owner (unit or department) and not instructor.

Graduate Council – Ron Hammer

Hammer reported that Department Head of Moral Sciences and Political Economy, Vlad Tarko, will be at the upcoming Faculty Senate meeting to address questions related to the Master's in Philosophy, Politics, and Economy, which is on the agenda for approval. Hudson stressed that there has been an outstanding open records request from an external entity for twenty-two months that inquires into the budget of the new department of Moral Sciences and Political Economy and where funding emanates from. Some campus and community members feel that the Freedom Center and the department are related.

APAC/CSC – Jennifer Lawrence

Lawrence reported that Classified Staff Council and APAC are moving toward combining both entities into one distinct shared governance unit. Dudas responded to Lawrence's question with regard to the new retirement option for state employees, that the bill didn't move forward and appears to have been nullified.

Vice Chair of the Faculty – Melanie Hingle

No report.

Chair of the Faculty – Jessica Summers

Summers in on sabbatical.

Undergraduate Council – Neel Ghosh

Ghosh reported that Undergraduate Minor in Pacific Asian American Studies will be on the January 25, 2021 agenda for Faculty Senate approval. Other proposals have been approved by the Council, but have not been received in their entirety by the Faculty Center.

SAPC – Diane Ohala

Ohala reported that the committee met last week. The link on the UArizona website for student resources keeps moving and changing locations making it difficult to find. The link also changes where it takes you into the website. Currently, the student resources link is listed in the COVID-19 footer, and Ohala suggests it should be at the top drop-down under Student Life. The committee has helped vet the Student Basic Needs survey, which will be going out shortly. Ohala would like communications that are sent out to students to contain the link to student services. Folks requested an email reminder from Ohala.

University-Wide General Education Committee – Joan Curry

No report.

C11 – Javier Durán

No report.

ASUA – Tara Singleton

No report.

GPSC – Shilpita Sen

No report.

RPC – Paul Gordon

Gordon was absent.

Committee for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – Stephanie Troutman

Troutman was absent.

Other business

Brummund brought in Qualtrics expert Adam Brokamp to review the logic for the last elections survey. Brummund reported that the logic that prohibits duplicate entries was not enabled in the survey for recent elections. Brokamp reported that the issue amounts to a single check box that was enabled that allows participants to reauthenticate. Brokamp and Brummund will work with Faculty Center staff to test the upcoming Runoff election survey to make sure it's secure.

Review agenda for the March 1, 2021 Faculty Senate Meeting

Hingle posted a proposed agenda in chat. Committee members assigned time allotments for each item.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Recorded and transcribed by Jane Cherry