

The University of Arizona®
Faculty Senate Executive Committee
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Minutes: August 31, 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 3:07 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes of July 27, 2020

The minutes of July 27, 2020 were approved.

UPDATES

SAPC – Diane Ohala

Ohala reported that she is serving on the Student Data Inside Strategy Team and data is being collected through different portals on class modalities, re-entry, mental health resilience, as well as many other initiatives. Ohala is uncertain where the reporting will be delivered. Hudson mentioned that the repository for lodging complaints and concerns is very important. The threshold and timing for transitioning to Phase Two of re-entry is a major concern for graduate students. Ohala said that many of the student assistance options are available in D2L, but there also needs to be a “help” button installed in an easily visible location in D2L for students to get answers to questions. Sen said that an “SOS” platform is being developed explicitly for that purpose. Neumann stated that he has been trying to advocate with the Dean of Students Office for a single point of contact when students are in crisis. Solutions need to be put in front of students. Ohala said that the information available is overwhelming, and can often times be confusing. The problem on the back end is there is no one place for students to go get the answers they are seeking. Sen feels that it would be helpful for individual colleges to have a point person who is designated to respond to students in crisis. Advisors at the undergraduate level receive some of the student traffic, but there is no central receiving outlet for students, and hopefully the central receiving process will be devised in the near future. Gordon said that in searching the UArizona website, search functions were mottled pertaining to specific

words like “help” and “crisis” and possibly the website developers could improve the functionality of search options. Frumkin added that although there isn’t an automated way to create that type of functionality, defining the terms could be investigated. Ohala said that pushing for wellness checks needs to specify what students are most stressed about and when. Ohala will work with Frumkin to narrow down variables for search options. Frumkin mentioned that possibly Campus Health Services might help with viable terms for use. Lawrence said a model like the 24/7 Support Help Center for IT support where service personnel would have avenues to direct callers to the appropriate office, or offer information on where to seek help would be ideal.

APPC – Ron Hammer and Tessa Dysart

The committee will be meeting on September 17, 2020.

RPC – Paul Gordon

Gordon reported that RPC will be meeting for the first time in September. Gordon would like the possibility of a universal influenza vaccine to be brought forward, especially in this time of COVID-19. Drs. Carmona and Robbins, as well as the Director of Campus Health Services are all supportive. Gordon has a follow-up meeting with Robbins at the end of the week to see if President Crowe at Arizona State University and the Office of General Counsel are also in support, and to address potential hurdles in demonstrating what state universities can do in the public health arena.

Committee for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – Stephanie Troutman

Troutman was absent.

C11 – Javier Durán

Durán reported that the committee met with Vice Provost for Global Affairs, Brent White, to discuss the Ashford deal. The committee is currently digesting information and determining a position on the situation. The committee would like to establish a conversation surrounding campus climate and issues pertaining to lack of trust with senior leadership.

GPSC – Shilpita Sen

Sen reported that GPSC has acquired some new members, but is still absent a Vice President. Due to the restrictions on travel, the GPSC grants program applications have decreased. Close to \$40,000 was returned to the Student Services Fee Board, whereas in past years, the demand for grants has not been met due to an overage of applications. Over 2,000 students receive the GPSC newsletter, and a more widespread announcement through other avenues is being sought. Ohala offered the Director of Graduate Studies’ newsletter, and Hammer will help with interfacing at the Graduate College.

ASUA – Tara Singleton

Singleton reported that ASUA is gauging students’ experiences and getting feedback on the first two weeks of in-session classes. Labor Day activities around campus will be a determining factor if Phase Two of the re-entry plan will be put into effect. Congregation spaces have been reported and roped off. The Campus Pantry can now purchase and accept donations for hygiene products and is moving toward a more holistic basic needs type of space. The Campus Closet space is providing professional clothing to students for job interviews, and will be moving into the Campus Pantry space.

APAC/CSC – Jennifer Lawrence

Lawrence said that APAC and Classified Staff Council will merge into one Staff Council to encompass all University of Arizona staff and will be called University of Arizona Staff Council. Approval from the

President's Office is pending. The Provost attended the last meeting and engaged in a frank discussion concerning campus en-entry, as well as timely and correct communication on multiple listservs. Meetings were held over the summer with excellent participation.

Undergraduate Council – Neel Ghosh

Ghosh reported that four new proposals will be moving forward for Faculty Senate approval: BAS in Early Childhood Education, BA in Human Rights Practice, BA in Fashion Industry Practice and Technology, and BS in Applied Biotechnology. Hingle asked about the status of the streamlined proposal approval process. Ghosh responded that UGC will be discussing the process at its first meeting. The new General Education Refresh will be presented at the upcoming Faculty Senate meeting.

Graduate Council – Ron Hammer

Hammer reported that Graduate Council will be meeting on September 18, 2020.

SPBAC – Sabrina Helm and Barry Brummund

Helm reported that the committee met on August 19, 2020 and discussed budget issues, specifically transfer of funds between units. A survey was conducted and the final report will go to President Robbins. The Provost initiated discussion on how the revenue from the Ashford closing would be used, and another survey for SPBAC members will most likely be implemented to provide recommendations. Helm feels positive about SBPAC's newly assigned tasks in assisting with budgetary decision-making processes.

IT Liasion – Jeremy Frumkin

Frumkin reported that support meetings have been implemented concerning bandwidth, specifically pertaining to the Zoom application. A variety of factors come into play on regional and national levels, and a large network provider that provides traffic for the United States and Europe had experienced trouble with its connectivity. UITS is looking at greater reliance, because pinpointing the sources of disruption are not always apparent, whether it is a device, the application, or network.

President – Jon Dudas

Dudas reported on the press for the wastewater epidemiology data from Dr. Ian Pepper, and that local elected and administrative officials are investigating what the University will be doing to ensure students wear masks outside of University property. The University adheres to, and enforces rules and regulations pertaining to masks, social gatherings, and social distancing unlike other public agencies in Tucson. University of Arizona Police Department will be working in tandem with Tucson Police Department to identify violators of any policies in place at UArizona. Student Ambassadors are on University Avenue reminding people to wear masks, and third-party monitors police the University and surrounding neighborhoods in the evenings to ensure no parties or gatherings are being held.

Secretary of the Faculty – Michael Brewer

Brewer reported that getting feedback on the Constitution and Bylaws revisions was very helpful. The updated revisions will be available to review prior to the September 14, 2020 Faculty Senate meeting.

Provost – Liesl Folks

Hingle asked Folks previously asked questions before her arrival, specifically having an "SOS" button on the UArizona homepage for students to obtain help and find out where to go for information. Folks responded that the SOS Team has been placing information online as quickly as possible. Campus Health and the CAPS teams have been responding in faster-than-usual fashion. Hudson said an all-purpose directory system would be helpful. The Dean of Students Office has been curt with responses. Ohala

mentioned Schalewski who has been working with the Student Data Insights Strategy Team. The Team fabricated a survey accessible on D2L that was intricately designed so that students could check off items of concern and information would be offered at the end of the survey to give students resources and information on where to get help for their checked-off items. Sen said that the feedback she is receiving from students is that they don't know what the resource pages look like, and whether or not the policy information is accurate or applies to the positions they hold. A person who is able to respond to questions immediately would be helpful. Folks reported that the deans were thrilled with how calmly the first week rolled out on the teaching side. A lot of excitement surrounded the wastewater epidemiology data detecting early warning system on dormitories, and all students were tested. Two students tested positive and put in isolation. The rapid antigen test has proven extremely useful. A sorority house had an outbreak and all students who hadn't been tested in the previous forty-eight hours were tested, and one more positive student was quarantined. Dormitories are now running clean according to the wastewater data. Measures have been put in place to address students' behavior on and off campus. The testing team at University of Arizona Health Sciences is doing a phenomenal job. Helm asked about Teacher-Course Evaluations (TCE's) and Folks responded that they will be formative instead of summative. Hudson asked how many cases are on campus and if the dashboard has improved since complaints were received. Folks responded that providing data was predominate over anything else as a first step, and building a data dashboard protocol for a longer tracking tool is forthcoming. Currently, if one student registers for antigen and PCR testing, they show as two individuals, so figuring out how to disambiguate that data has been problematic. Ghosh mentioned the appointment letters that went out from Human Resources to faculty are problematic because the wording that states the furlough salary, with an additional paragraph stating that additional furlough amounts could be possible. Lawrence said that the letter does not distinguish that the salary reduction is for this year only, nor does it state the percentage of salary reduction. The wording of the contract is identical to the previous year. Folks responded that she would look into it. Dysart asked if a week's notice will be given when the decision is made to move into Phase Two of re-entry. Folks responded that President Robbins will be deciding about re-entry today, but hasn't spoken to him yet. Hudson said that metrics and thresholds accompanying the decision would be helpful. Folks responded that the test data can be tricky because the denominator of the population getting tested is unknown. Lawrence asked about the assault of the staff member on campus this past weekend. Folks responded that a Facilities Management employee was breaking up a dispute between two other people and received a minor wound from a knife. The employee is doing fine after being taken to the hospital. The perpetrators have not been apprehended. Apparently, the employee found the two perpetrators in one of the Student Union ballrooms, and there's been no explanation as to why they were there. Ghosh asked about the most recent ABOR meeting. Folks said they discussed the Ashford acquisition and if the President of the University wanted to use metrics in terms of accountability for Ashford performance. A discussion about short-term borrowing options/lines of credit, and if a line of credit was obtained, all monies would have to be paid back no later than June 30, 2021. The Board approved the measure to refinance existing bonds. Hingle asked about Ashford's affiliation agreement, how much is known on campus, and who the new Global Campus Senate Advisory Committee (GCSAC) should be working with, and if faculty are being considered for an oversight committee. Folks responded that mechanics have to be in order to set up the new University and have all of the existing faculty, staff, and students merge into the new organization by terminating the old and activating the new. New systems for Human Resources and finances have to be put in place before the roll-over. Assessing the status quo on the Ashford side has to be done at arm's length because the two Universities are separate entities and effectively competitors in the same space. A review of Ashford's practices and processes needs to be analyzed to align with UArizona's values. Folks doesn't have clarity yet on how GCSAC is going to engage. The affiliation agreement is still being developed, so by governance, Robbins means at the highest level of the Board. A management Board may have UArizona people assigned to it, but isn't sure at this time. Many things have

to be put in place before the academic engagement is addressed. Marketing and communications strategies to create distinctive markets have to be implemented, and then where there are opportunities for those interested, they may come at a later time. Hingle said that she and Summers are charging GCSAC, which is representative of the campus, and requested to be kept informed as events develop. Members of GCSAC are concerned with overlap with Ashford's curriculum in many different colleges at UArizona.

Vice Chair of the Faculty – Melanie Hingle

Hingle shared the membership of the GCSAC and asked for any input. Lawrence is hopeful that committee members can be respectful in all dealings with the leadership teams moving forward. Hingle said that if the affiliation agreement leaves room for participation in oversight, this would be GCSAC's focus, but imminently, GCSAC is taking a fact-finding, understanding, and educating approach. Gordon suggested ground rules for membership on the committee to foster collegiality.

Chair of the Faculty – Jessica Summers

No report.

Other business

There was no other business.

Review agenda for the September 14, 2020 Faculty Senate Meeting

Items were deleted and time allotments were assigned for each item.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Recorded and transcribed by Jane Cherry