

The University of Arizona®
Faculty Senate Executive Committee
1216 E. Mabel St. (PO Box 210456)
621.1342
facultycenter@email.arizona.edu

Minutes: September 21, 2020

3:00-5:00 p.m.

VIA ZOOM

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

Present: M Hingle (Chair), M Brewer, 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: B Brummund, J Dudas, S Troutman

Guest: J Frumkin and C Ramirez

Call to Order

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

Approval of the Minutes of August 31, 2020

The minutes of August 31, 2020 were approved.

UPDATES

President's Office – Celina Ramirez (In Dudas' absence)

Ramirez reported that in the past week, positive COVID-19 cases have decreased from 260 to seventy-nine. Theories for the decrease range from the shelter-in-place directive to students' change in behavior. The isolation capacity is up to 600 beds. Under the Incident Command System (ICS), the FACT committee are primarily members of the College of Public Health who review metrics and advise on stage of re-entry, advise on testing strategies, and make recommendations on other public health issues. The COVID Response Team is logistical and operational in nature and is more of a service provider to students. All units report to the ICS who reports to the President. Singleton asked if there was a flow for students who didn't live in campus housing who test positive. Ramirez responded that during the first few weeks of the semester, only six students were in isolation capacity with plenty of capacity for off-campus students. After the reopening of campus, the cases surged to 50% capacity, wherein more dorms were converted for isolation. Currently, 600 spaces have opened up. Students do not need to be tested by Campus Health Service (CHS), since CHS receives notification of all positive cases. Ramirez will check to see what resources are being sent to off-campus students so contact information is readily available. Ghosh listened to the morning briefing, and the President reported 350 to 370 students currently in the dorms, and you reported 600. Approximately 20% of students in the dorms are infected and 20% or higher off-campus are infected. Are off-campus students being tested so we have that information. Ramirez said that some off-

campus students are tested, but the testing sites accept all walk-ups. Summers said the estimate was based on different factors; 1) people who have already reported being sick and may or may not have tested positive, 2) people who have tested positive, and 3) people who are probably asymptomatic but would test positive if everyone were required to be tested. It's an estimate not based on real numbers, but based on an algorithm that has to do with population density and public health information. There are no plans to advance into phase two of re-entry. Ramirez will ascertain the raw numbers. Gordon asked what relationship the University has with the Greek houses and high-rises in terms of enforcement. Ramirez responded that most Greek houses either own their own buildings and property, or they are renting from someone and managing independently and employees are paid by them. However, the University does recognize the Greek organizations the same way it recognizes other student organizations and often requires them to take trainings, follow rules, and manage rush for them. A Greek chapter can have status rescinded if an investigation ensues or they have violated certain rules. None of this is true in the high-rises. They are completely independent, private housing, so the University has no authority other than to build positive relationships and work with them.

Chair of the Faculty – Jessica Summers

Summers reported that the last Faculty Senate meeting was focused more on business than in previous sessions. Committee members agreed. Hingle stated her frustration with presenters who are given a time allotment and don't abide by it. Summers suggested reminding Senators at the beginning of each meeting to utilize best practices during the meetings. CAJUA will be holding a State of the University address on October 6, 2020 during the lunch hour, and correspondence should be forthcoming. Summers said she was asked to be a speaker and will advocate for shared governance. C11 will perform a campus climate survey pertaining to campus leadership abilities. The responses will be used as feedback for the leadership team as a factual, rather than judgmental perspective. Neumann asked that clear instructions be given to Senators with the best way for their colleagues to contact them for Senate business. Joan Curry heads the University Wide General Education Committee, and asked committee members if Curry should attend Senate Executive Committee meetings. Committee members agreed. Faculty Center staff will reach out and start the conversation with Curry.

C11 – Javier Durán

Durán reported that the committee is working more as a bridge to work constituencies on campus. The committee will be consulting with a member of the AAUP on national shared governance principles.

Vice Chair of the Faculty – Melanie Hingle

Hingle reported that Susan Miller-Cochran asked if she could be put on the Faculty Senate agenda for December to discuss the Gen Ed Refresh since the Provost delayed roll-out until Spring 2022. More clarification should be explained with regard to faculty involvement/faculty process because many questions remained unanswered. The streamlined proposal approval process change would be to empower Undergraduate and Graduate Councils the ability to approve proposals without having to move forward for Faculty Senate approval, and conversely, to have all the steps in the approval process work in parallel. The complications need to be worked out for the best process moving forward. The selection process for members on the Councils has come into question. Should the members be elected or appointed, and by whom. Many times, deans appoint, but previously, each faculty advisory group in each college was to elect its representative(s) to sit on each Council. The problem being, that some colleges do not employ such advisory groups. In order for the members of the Councils to be elected, the Bylaws would have to be changed. Hammer said the members are tremendously engaged. Senators need to decide if that body should be involved in the approval process. Hingle shared the College of Law's Grading

Policy Modification request. Dysart said that the College of Law's Curriculum Committee voted on the Grading Policy Modification, and was under the impression that approval from the Provost was necessary.

Secretary of the Faculty – Michael Brewer

Brewer reported that the Constitution and Bylaws are still being revised, and with changes to the Undergraduate and Graduate Councils' election processes being undetermined, a further Faculty Senate discussion is necessary. Ghosh and Hammer weighed in that the process is for an elected member to sit on the Councils. Whether the election should be utilized through University elections involving the Faculty Center, or elected by a College Council still yet has to be determined.

IT Liaison – Jeremy Frumkin

Frumkin reported that a Wired Campus Network Registration project will be underway potentially causing some disruption in internet service. Campus communities are working diligently for minimal disruption. The project is in response to a security audit from a number of years ago. Frumkin suggested that the committee discuss shared governance in relation to his position on the committee as a guest instead of a committee member. Brewer said that the addition is a matter of changing the Bylaws to include an IT CIO or designee in the membership. Frumkin said that discussing what kind of governance can be implemented, whether it be research-related or in other areas, constructive faculty voices should have a seat at the table on overarching decision-making aside from faculty's personal projects.

SPBAC – Sabrina Helm and Barry Brummund

Helm reported that the committee met twice and is making a concerted effort to increase financial literacy for SPBAC members, and discussed the UArizona Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for FY19. The GFFAC recommendations were discussed with regard to the furlough, as well as debt and lines of credit. The day following the September 16, 2020 meeting, a communication from the President to campus announced that the furloughs may be shortened. The October 7, 2020 SPBAC meeting will be devoted to discussing more about tuition revenue and its affect on the furlough changes. A running survey is being compiled on Ashford for committee members, specifically how portions of revenues will become available upon final closing of the deal. Summers said the President fielded questions to the GFFAC that were challenging, since the committee is not in a decision-making position, and has been denied financial information it seeks to make more sound recommendations. GFFAC has been denied meetings with the CFO and Provost as of late, and will attempt to meet with President Robbins in the near future. More information is being compiled on how other Universities are borrowing and using lines of credit. A one-page report will be submitted before the furlough evaluation. Helm said that there was a request that SPBAC weigh-in on shortening the furlough or reducing the percentage, and which one would be preferable, but the announcement was released the following day after a decision had apparently already been made.

Provost – Liesl Folks

Hingle asked Folks to specify who will be carrying out the work with the new General Education program and how faculty and Faculty Senate will be involved going forward. Folks responded that Gen Ed will be funded through an activity-based budget model and ultimately, some short-term costs will be associated to revamp existing courses and develop new courses. From discussions with Susan Miller-Cochran, the sense is that mapping UArizona's aspirations with ABOR's rules and policy, many courses will fall into the new Gen Ed framework without heroic amounts of effort. Miller-Cochran is in discussions with Greg Heileman and UWGEC for the course approval process. Summers suggested having Miller-Cochran come to an Officers' meeting in the near future. Folks said that the business oversight of Gen Ed has been largely problematic in the past, so going forward with the redesign, budget outcomes are being prioritized.

Neumann asked about returning to pass/fail grading. Folks said that traditional grading models will remain in place to alleviate students getting penalized when they apply for graduate school. Hingle asked about the shortening of the furlough communication, and Folks responded that CFO Rulney and Vice Provost, Institutional Planning and Analysis, Jim Florian, are loading the new tuition revenue into the RCM budget and all the changes to the forecast for spring 2021. College budgets will be forthcoming based on activity within each college to more easily assess distribution of funds. Helm mentioned that the topic of a change to the furlough surfaced at its last meeting, but the committee didn't have the opportunity to weigh in before the message went out from President Robbins the following day. Folks isn't entirely sure if the President's intention is to shorten the duration of the furlough or reduce the percentage, but no immediate changes will take place. Gordon discussed colleagues who have set aside flex time/furlough days in the spring, and how shortening the furlough would impose on scheduled hours. Folks responded that the main concern is to make sure all categories are treated equally. Folks approved the College of Law JD Grading Policy Modification.

Graduate Council – Ron Hammer

No Report.

Undergraduate Council – Neel Ghosh

Ghosh said that any new proposals will be discussed at the Council's meeting the following day.

APAC/CSC – Jennifer Lawrence

Lawrence reported that the Councils will be meeting next week and heavy discussion surrounds the new structure of the University/Classified staff councils and how that should look like bringing the two organizations together.

ASUA – Tara Singleton

Singleton reported that ASUA is working to register students to vote and expanding its civic platform. The early polling station will be in the Student Union Ballroom this year. ASUA leaders are concerned about student morale and taking a stance on initiatives to keep students safe.

GPSC – Shilpita Sen

Sen reported that GPSC is preparing for the upcoming legislative action days and is working on student finances. Reports will be shared with all R1 Universities after the fall summit. Defining major goals as a Council are being figured out in advance of the GPSC retreat, and GPSC has continued its work to advocate for students' funding and resources

APPC – Ron Hammer and Tessa Dysart

Dysart reported that the committee met last week with Interim Associate Vice President/Equity and Title IX Coordinator, Mary Beth Tucker. Tucker explained Title IX changes and the bifurcated system for federal regulations, as well as UArizona's own policies on sexual harassment and discrimination. A new policy for health and safety issues/public health emergencies is under review by the committee. An additional clause for religious accommodation will be added. The policy will move forward to the Faculty Senate in the near future.

RPC – Paul Gordon

No report.

SAPC – Diane Ohala

The committee is supporting Student Regent, Anthony Rusk’s, presentation to Faculty Senate on October 5, 2020 for a Basic Student Needs Coalition. More work needs to be done locally, especially on students’ emotional health and well-being needs. Gordon asked if the insurance product Banner Health offers could possibly be partnered for students at a lower cost. Folks said that the insurance changes for employees in the next year look shockingly expensive.

Committee for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – Stephanie Troutman

No report.

Vice Chair of the Faculty – Melanie Hingle

No report.

President – Jon Dudas

Dudas was absent.

Other business

There was no other business.

Review agenda for the October 5, 2020 Faculty Senate Meeting

The item was deferred.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Recorded and transcribed by Jane Cherry