

The University of Arizona®
Faculty Senate Executive Committee
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Minutes: March 23, 2020

3:00-5:00 p.m.

VIA ZOOM

Present: M Brewer (Chair), B Brummund, J Dudas, J Duran, L Folks, A Fountain, N Ghosh, P Gordon, R Hammer, S Helm, S Hess, M Hingle, L Hudson, J Lawrence, W Neumann, D Ohala, J Summers, M Teemant

Guest: J Frumkin

Call to Order

Chair Brewer called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes of February 17, 2020

The minutes of February 17, 2020 were approved with one correction. (Helm asked for a change via email, but the change was not mentioned at this juncture of the meeting.)

UPDATES

Provost – Liesl Folks

Folks reported that CDC requirements, as well as directives from Pima County, are being implemented to keep the campus safe from the COVID-19 virus. Grading and academic eligibility requirements have been sent out to faculty and students. The University has reported a few positive cases for COVID-19, with an increase in social distancing in Tucson possibly on the horizon. Discussions have been underway to make the now empty dormitory space accessible to doctors and nurses at Banner in order to alleviate transmission of the virus to their own families. Research faculty have turned over lab space in order to manufacture testing kits. Campus Health has seen a surge in students seeking testing. Three drive-through facilities have been set up by Banner. Gordon asked about the anticipated duration of limitations on domestic travel. Folks responded that no answers have been received from the Federal Government, and that timing is of course unpredictable. Hess inquired about whether students had to pay for testing. Folks responded that the co-pays for students for telemedicine have been waived by three out of the four insurance companies have waived, and the University is working to minimize costs to students. Helm asked if those with poor internet access at home can come to campus to safely utilize its strong internet capabilities by, for example, driving to campus and staying in the car in a UA parking area with strong signal. Frumkin said this was discussed in UITS Leadership meetings, and a memorandum will be sent out identifying areas on campus with good internet access. Brummund reported that an announcement will be forthcoming about efforts to improve access to internet in remote areas by bolstering infrastructure at UArizona's Extension facilities. Residence Halls will be

consolidated as quickly as possible. Hudson asked about students' continuity with health insurance and internship opportunities. Teement responded that everything is in place through the summer months. Duran asked about suspending the faculty tenure clock, and Folks responded that the option will be implemented on the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs' website in a way that is designed to notify all pertinent parties of the faculty member's decision, and de-stigmatize these requests for any faculty who need them. An emergency fund has been created to sustain students who have lost on campus employment. Students who work on campus are continuing to be paid, even if they can't make an appropriate remote work plan. Student health and recreation fees are not being refunded because they support the Student Health services, which are experiencing a sharp increase and usage, including the provision of COVID-19 testing. Long term financial effects of this situation are not predictable, and leadership cannot determine what kinds of responses may be called for when the crisis has abated.

Chair of the Faculty – Jessica Summers

Summers reported that she sent out a survey to faculty requesting that they submit questions of concern with the COVID-19 virus. Senior leaders attending the next Faculty Senate meeting to answer questions will be the Provost, President, CFO, Vice President for Research, Innovation & Impact, Dean of Students, and Vice President for Enrollment Management. Questions from the survey will be consolidated. Committee members discussed having a direct channel to the President and Provost for faculty/students in an ongoing effort to assign help and/or ideas where needed on campus and in the community. Conversations are in progress concerning the University's attendance policies in UHAP and the Undergraduate and Graduate Syllabus templates. Dean of Students, Kendal Washington White, will petition for a change in policy, as well as make template changes for both undergraduate and graduate education.

Vice Chair of the Faculty – Michael Brewer

Brewer reported that the All Faculty listserv did not include a large segment of the DCC population and determinations are being made with UITS on who should be included. The Arizona Faculties Council is discussing a percentage limitation of the Multi-year/Non-tenure contracts of faculty at the three in-state Universities. A clause will be added to ABOR policy to allow customization of the percentage allowed. With regard to the Memorandum for Shared Governance Guidelines at the University of Arizona, the Faculty Officers do not want to lose track of the progress made on the revision, and decision to appoint a formal *ad hoc* Senate Task Force will be assigned to carry out the duties to fruition.

Secretary of the Faculty – Amy Fountain

Fountain has met with the Committee on Faculty Membership regarding Career-track faculty members, following up with a scheduled meeting with the Provost.

President – Jon Dudas

Dudas reported that the Legislature is closed until April 13, 2020. ABOR has been supportive of the three in-state Universities. The University of Arizona has encouraged students to stay home during the COVID-19 outbreak while maximizing flexibility for the student population, and manufacturing FDA approved testing kits. The service to the state has been well-received by the Governor. President Robbins, as well as ABOR, are encouraged by faculty and staff's commitment to ensuring that we manage these challenges successfully.

SPBAC – Sabrina Helm and Barry Brummund

Brummund reported that the Study Abroad program's financial model and COVID-19 updates were the agenda items at the previous meeting. Chief Financial Officer, Lisa Rulney, updated the committee that appropriated state funding from tuition revenue could be affected by COVID-19.

Graduate Council – Ron Hammer

The new Graduate Faculty proposal will be announced in UAnnounce publication. The MA in Bilingual Journalism will be moved forward to the April 6, 2020 Faculty Senate meeting.

Undergraduate Council – Neel Ghosh

Ghosh informed the committee that many proposals are moving forward to CAAC and will be coming to Faculty Senate in the near future.

APAC – Jennifer Lawrence

Lawrence reported that University Staff are concerned about job stability. APAC and CSC are putting together a newsletter to offer resources for University employees. The University Awards for Excellence ceremony has been postponed.

UITS Liaison – Jeremy Frumkin

Frumkin deferred to Brummund who reported that keeping the University running smoothly in remote mode has been the first priority. Teaching, learning and working remotely are three updates that Brummund reports on daily. During transitions, the Office of Institutional Assessment and the Provost's Office have been instrumental in keeping the University operating for the last two weeks.

ASUA – Sydney Hess

Hess reported that the Campus Pantry is open, but with modified hours at this time. The Campus Pantry is serving approximately 150 students a week. SafeRide has closed momentarily. Alternatives for Commencement are being looked at. Summers asked about students who aren't responding to emails or showing up to Zoom classes. Is there another way to reach those students? Hess responded that students are feeling frustrated with the lack of resources available at this time, and reaching out individually to the student in a compassionate manner would be the most prudent option.

GPSC – Marie Teement

Teement reported that GPSC's focus has shifted to the needs of graduate students. Two surveys were distributed to find out if any graduate students needed assistance or would like to volunteer in an effort to help others. GPSC is partnering with the Campus Pantry to get food to students who are homebound. Resources for housing support are being addressed on a one-on-one basis. Applications are still being accepted for the travel and research grants. Students who are awarded travel grants, and who incur non-refundable travel expenses for trips that are subsequently canceled, do not have to re-imburse GPSC for those expenses. Unspent grant money must be returned to GPSC.

C11 – Javier Duran

The committee met with the President Robbins, Senior Vice President for Health Affairs, Michael Dake, and Secretary of the University, Jon Dudas prior to spring break. Banner issues were discussed. Tenure and grading issues were discussed at the last meeting. A Zoom meeting with Regent Duval is set up for a future meeting.

APPC – Melanie Hingle

Hingle reported that the committee reviewed the flowchart for the new program approval process and is waiting for feedback from some of the committee members. The committee is discussing donor interference with gifts and how to navigate those concerns with the Conflict of Interest Policy. Folks responded that more thorough ways of approving programs need to be implemented, especially coming out of the current crises.

SAPC – Diane Ohala

The committee met on March 18, 2020 and discussed issues facing student in the current situation. Many of the issues have already been addressed by administration, such as the pass/fail option. Concerns arose that all students do not have all the same information available, and hopefully messaging to students on campus can have continuity moving forward. An email for state resources for job availability was distributed, but it is unclear who received the message. Students who are in remote locations do not have internet access, and Ohala reported that one student is driving six hours to use WiFi. Brummund responded that the Extension offices are working to boost communications in rural areas. Folks commented that she was certain that all students were within a thirty-minute drive of all Extension offices and asked Ohala to provide her with the student's location. The Navajo Nation is likely to soon be on lockdown with twenty-nine confirmed COVID-19 cases. Ohala said that committee members heard from representatives of FirstCats, who suggested that the new syllabus template should not only include instructor's office hours, but an explanation of what office hours are for. This is because many first-gen students don't otherwise have access to this information. Ghosh suggested that the student advisor would be a good liaison to advise students about prudent ways to constructively use office hour time with instructors.

Other business

There was no other business.

Review agenda for the April 6, 2020 Faculty Senate Meeting

Discussion was taken offline.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Recorded and transcribed by Jane Cherry