

REPORT TO FACULTY SENATE

FROM: The Faculty Officers <http://facultygovernance.arizona.edu/>

DATE: August 3, 2020

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Chair Summers convened the General Faculty Financial Advisory Committee (GFFAC), a General Faculty shared governance *ad hoc* committee charged to propose/support financial mitigation strategies that preserve jobs and value human capital with a focus on short-term borrowing, restructuring debt, and long-term borrowing options. The GFFAC met frequently throughout the month of July, with a variety of faculty governance groups, members of the financial sustainability task force working groups, the Provost and the Chief Financial Officer.
- In response to Senator requests for more opportunities for discussion and debate between meetings, the Faculty Officers/Faculty Center Staff have taken the following steps:
 - migrated the COVID19 Faculty Discourse Forum to a Faculty Discourse Forum (same site/function, now a non-COVID specific focus) wherein topics can be introduced, discussed, and debated by the general faculty; relevant to Senate, there is a “Lounge” feature within the site for Senators only to communicate with one another between monthly meetings. We envision this being a good place to introduce new policies / potential agenda items.
 - offered weekly “Senate Office Hours” from 4-4:50pm on Tuesdays; no agenda, just you, hosted by Jessica Summers, Michael Brewer, and/or Melanie Hingle
- the Constitution and Bylaws Committee have proposed a number of changes to the Faculty Bylaws that would clarify how and under what conditions Senate meets, among other issues. The package of proposed changes will be provided to all Senators via Qualtrics for voting on housekeeping items and for input toward a potential vote in September on items that are not housekeeping.
- the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on the MOU for Shared Governance met twice in July to advance the revision to the MOU to emphasize the following: Faculty need to be consulted in decisions that affect us; Faculty provide a checks and balance function through consultation; Faculty & Administration operate under a mutual agreement of open dialogue/communication and respect
- The Provost convened a Steering Committee to oversee the vetting and, as appropriate, implementation of a number of proposals related to data on and titling of faculty off the tenure track. This work is expected to improve our ability to do equity studies and also have more accurate information and appropriate, uniform titling for our Career Track faculty and others off the tenure track. The committee will be co-Chaired by Michael Brewer and Bill Neumann. For governance purposes, vetting of proposals related to faculty titling and definitions will go through the Ad Hoc Committee on Career Track Faculty before being brought to Faculty Senate.

GOALS:

SHORT-TERM

- Re-charge the Ad Hoc Committee on Career-Track Faculty to address pressing concerns and opportunities related to career track faculty over the coming year.
- Complete the work of the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on the MOU for Shared Governance, toward developing a document that can be endorsed by Senate and signed by Administration in September / October 2020.

LONG-TERM

- To ensure a successful, safe, and healthy return to campus life in Fall for all members of the UA community.
- To continue to broaden participation in shared governance to ensure that the University lives up to its values and supports its mission as we move ahead.
- To work with you to all that we, as a community, can do to save lives, support our most vulnerable community members, and increase faculty participation in all decision-making that affects our lives and the long-term health and well-being of all of us.

To Our Senate Colleagues: We remain grateful to you for your hard work, your input, your ideas and your continued engagement in shared governance. We continue to work to support the work of the University and to ensure the prominence of the Faculty voice.