Minutes: July 27, 2020
3:00-5:00 p.m.
VIA ZOOM
https://arizona.zoom.us/j/9503583576

Present:  M Hingle (Chair), M Brewer, 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, J Summers, S Troutman

Absent:  B Brummund, P Gordon

Guest:  J Frumkin

Call to Order
Chair Hingle called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes of July 13, 2020
The minutes of July 13, 2020 were approved.

UPDATES

SAPC – Diane Ohala
Ohala reported that the committee met after the last Faculty Senate meeting and Student Regent Anthony Rusk has an initiative on Student Basic Needs that he will be presenting at the August 3, 2020 Faculty Senate meeting. She reported that mass communication between the University/instructors/students is confusing and inconsistent. Students were asked to update their emergency contact information in a way that created apprehension for students and could have been communicated in a gentler manner. A live-online component was added to all in-person/flex in-person classes after Thanksgiving break causing confusion to students, who may think they can choose any option. Sen responded that students are hearing different messages from departments/faculty versus what they see online and are confused about who has the proper information. Students are still trying to figure out what the fall semester will look like, which is making semester planning virtually impossible. Ohala feels a central messaging center/office/team should categorically address all issues so students receive up-to-date/correct information going forward to alleviate any complications since time is of the essence. Ghosh agreed that the College of Science is facing similar issues, and differences in protocol exist between departments versus the University as a whole. Many courses require in-person instruction, and those that do not should defer. The confusion is becoming more prevalent as the opening of the fall semester nears. Dudas said
that he would like to coordinate with the Communications Office and the Provost’s Office to simplify communications. Neumann stated that the term “flex in-person” is generating hundreds of emails from freshman students asking for clarification on how the instructor will choose to deliver the course.

Committee for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – Stephanie Troutman
Troutman reported that the committee will have its inaugural meeting on July 29, 2020.

APPC – Ron Hammer and Tessa Dysart
Dysart reported that the committee will work on Title IX issues at its meeting in September 2020.

C11 – Javier Durán
Durán reported that the committee met on July 9, 2020 and a sub-committee drafted a letter to Regent Duval in response to his open letter to the Arizona Daily Star. No response has been received. The letter will be shared with the faculty.

GPSC – Shilpita Sen
Sen reported that GPSC had its general council meeting Thursday, July 23, 2020 and mainly focused on implementation and consultation of workplace modifications to address concerns with in-person teaching. Graduate student Teaching Assistants feel they do not have the same flexibility as faculty members with modality decisions after the most recent announcement. The proposed staged re-entry resolution by Senator Gerald is concerning for graduate students after the College of Education representative distributed a survey within her department showing that many students are still undecided about continuing their education this year or if they will defer for an entire year. The travel grants are being expanded to include virtual events/conferences for professional development, and the virtual orientation will go live on August 10, 2020 through D2L.

ASUA – Tara Singleton
Singleton reported that ASUA is still seeing fewer students and/or community members expressing concerns about various social movements (e.g., anti-mask groups) on Instagram. The need for negative attention seems to be dying down and the antagonistic behavior is diminishing. The issue is less pressing, and student clubs and organizations are focusing on addressing students’ needs and concerns. Student clubs and organizations are concerned about the ability to meet in person at some point during the semester with best practices. Organizations will meet virtually at the start of the semester. New announcements are generating a feeling of chaos and paranoia due to the constantly changing messages with in-person classes. Ghosh requested an email with questions from students in order to gain students’ perspectives.

APAC/CSC – Jennifer Lawrence
Lawrence said that staff’s concerns echo what has already been stated. Lawrence and Jones, CSC’s President, met with Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer, Helena Rodrigues, to discuss confounding messages staff are receiving from their supervisors and how to best implement concise messages. Staff feel they are being pushed to return to campus, even if the position doesn’t require in-person duties. Unrealistic expectations on the part of employees, managers, and supervisors are due to the uncertainty of the budget and continuing staff lay-offs.

Undergraduate Council – Neel Ghosh
The Face-Mask Directive will be ready for release, but a wrinkle in the directive has surfaced concerning the protocol for drinking water in class. Does the student excuse his/herself to a dedicated area inside the
building to drink, or does a student use a straw underneath the mask, or is the six-foot distance requirement sufficient to not cause harm? Ghosh asked for committee input with ideas because the issue needs to be address prior to the start of the semester. Another issue of confusion concerning the Mask Directive is how to deal with a student who refuses to wear a mask. Option A would be to cancel a class, and option B would be to call UAPD. Which option does a faculty member employ under what circumstances? Sen was under the impression that UAPD would never be called for the enforcement of wearing masks. The faculty member would have a conversation with the student (forgetting a mask versus refusal to wear), provide a face covering if needed, and then assess the situation from that point. Summers said that the Office of Instructional Assessment is going to provide videos of different scenarios to aid instructors with this issue. Hudson said that she spoke with UAPD and was told that mask enforcement is under the purview of the Dean of Students Office. Sen asked if refusal to wear a mask would fall under disorderly conduct, and Dudas said that all policies in place are pertinent.

**Graduate Council – Ron Hammer**
No Report

**IT Liaison – Jeremy Frumkin**
No report.

**Secretary of the Faculty – Michael Brewer**
Brewer reported that the Provost charged a steering committee to shepherd a series of proposals for titling and data related to Career Track Faculty and others who are off the tenure track. A number of constituencies are on the steering committee to look at all sides of the issues that may be raised. The changes will assist with an equity study that will be carried out in the near future. A laundry list of Constitution and Bylaws changes will be forthcoming to Faculty Senate for its August 3, 2020 meeting. Some of the changes will be housekeeping changes but many will require a vote of the General Faculty. Hingle asked about the status of the Shared Governance Review Committee and its connection with the revision of the Shared Governance Memorandum of Understanding. Brewer responded that the membership of the committee may change, and its activity will be more prominent once the MOU is completed. Hudson stated that the campus climate as of late has been utilizing all available shared governance mechanisms, and feels that some of the changes to the Constitution and Bylaws may be exclusionary, for example, excluding the Emeritus faculty from the General Faculty. She also suggested that the Shared Governance Review Committee membership could be changed to be less administrative-heavy. Hingle suggested having a forum available for commenting on changed policies prior to bringing them to Faculty Senate.

**SPBAC – Sabrina Helm and Barry Brummund**
No report.

**Vice Chair of the Faculty – Melanie Hingle**
No report.

**Chair of the Faculty – Jessica Summers**
Summers reported that Provost Folks and Associate Vice Provost for Academic Administration, Greg Heileman recommend a change to the Bylaws to move Undergraduate Council and Graduate Council from University-wide committees to Senate Standing Committees. This change would take the appointment of Council members back to the College Councils, which would be overseen by Academic Administration. A
GFFAC survey will be sent to the campus community to find out how the all employees feel about the current furlough plan. The General Education Refresh Initiative will be added to the August 3, 2020 Faculty Senate agenda. The language requiring face masks will be added to the Syllabus Policy, and the Administrative Directive for Face Coverings and the Attendance Guidelines will be discussion items for the August 3, 2020 Faculty Senate meeting. Senator Joe Gerald from the College of Public Health will be introducing a Resolution to Faculty Senate on staging re-entry to campus. In light of the announcement that was broadcast to the campus today, the Resolution may need to be modified.

Provost – Liesl Folks
Folks reported that all college and support unit operating plans have been reviewed and approved, with a few updates and modifications. Deans and unit head leaders were asked to post each operating plan on their respective college/unit’s website to assure high levels of transparency. Folks is working with Chief Financial Officer, Lisa Rulney, to develop budgets for the colleges and support units in an effort to apprise the units of fiscal encumbrance for the coming year. The developed budgets, once finalized, will be brought to SPBAC for review. The budgets will be comprised of forecasting FY21 instead of using FY20 numbers due to the numerous ill-proportioned budget changes due to the pandemic circumstances. Once September passes and the University has a clear census of students’ tuition revenue, a true-up process will be done college-by-college/support unit-by-support unit. Folks has set up live chat sessions for interactive questions and answers starting July 30, 2020. The first round of interviews for the College of Science Dean search are in process, with a goal of eventually bringing people to campus. The Dean search for College of Applied Science and Technology was done digitally, and finalizations are in process for the Associate Vice Provost for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Ghosh brought up Ohala’s suggestion for a centralized location where advisors/faculty/students can ask questions/get answers to the countless amount of conflicting information broadcast from different sources. Ohala concurred that members of the campus community are receiving a myriad of messages that differ from one source to another, creating confusion among students, staff, and faculty, specifically related to class modalities. Folks responded that on COVID19.arizona.edu website, there is an update section for class re-entry formats, re-entry guidelines, and all the latest communications. Ohala said that having everything in one place that was widely broadcast to the campus community would be helpful. Folks responded that the mass changes that have needed to be made in a short time have been extremely challenging.

President – Jon Dudas
Dudas took questions. Hudson asked about the status of ABOR. Dudas said that ABOR is focusing on the return of legislative session in the fall. A special session is not likely. Ghosh asked about enrollment numbers. Folks shared the most recent spreadsheet showing enrollment is down 5,542 heads, which is better than the projected 7,400. Students who are returning are taking less credit hours to save money. The numbers show students who are returning are skewing more in-state and heavily subsidized and fewer out-of-state and less subsidized. International students are down by 380. Undergraduate non-resident is down, but non-resident continuing is holding steady. Graduate student numbers are now declining.

RPC – Paul Gordon
Gordon was absent.

Other business
There was no other business.
Review agenda for the August 3, 2020 Faculty Senate Meeting
Items were added and time allotments were assigned for each item.

Adjournment
With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Recorded and transcribed by Jane Cherry