

Faculty Senate meeting

22 January 2021

Senators in Attendance: Rex Strange, Brandon Field, Adrian Gentle, Bartell Berg, Jamie Seitz, Brent Summers, Laura Bernhardt, Mary Doerner, Marilyn Ostendorf, Peter Cashel-Cordo, Sang woo Heo, Mike Strezewski, Jinsuk Yang, Steve Gruenewald, Chuck Conaway.

Other Attendees: Mohammed Khayum, Hayden Olberding, MT Hallock Morris.

- Held via Zoom meeting. Called to order: 2:31 pm.
- Approval of minutes:
 - From November meeting: Approved unanimously
 - From the special meeting in December, minor edits were made to account for incomplete sentences. Approved with one abstention.
 - Our statement was passed on to the Faculty Senate chair at U of E, who expressed their appreciation to Rex.
- Chair's Report: Rex
 - Meetings planned: Jan 22, Feb 5, Feb 19, Mar 5, Mar 19, Apr 9, Apr 23
 - The administration would like to begin recognizing work anniversaries of faculty, at 5 year increments.
 - Rex is unsure when faculty will be on the schedule with regard to being vaccinated. It was pointed out that the vaccines have not actually been approved by the FDA, the emergency authorization approves the use of the vaccine, but the actual FDA approval of a vaccine takes several years and much more rigorous research than has been done thus far.
- Provost's Report:
 - Strategic plan was approved by the Board of Trustees. The plan included measurable statements around each of the objectives. The numbers of freshman to retain to next fall can be calculated, based on the numbers of students that have been retained from last fall to this semester.
 - There have been two times now that we have adapted the Promotion and Tenure process into an electronic form. It is the appropriate time to see if the process should be converted to online format for promotion and tenure permanently. Faculty Senate should lead the process to see if there is receptivity and the technical abilities to pursue this conversion.
 - Several changes at the Graduate Program level; he will distribute a document.
 - Change to the course repeat policy: currently, they cannot be repeated to replace their grade; the recommendation is to make courses repeatable, subject to the individual program policies.

- Graduate "Fresh start" policy to allow people to seek readmission without having their academic record held against them.
 - GPA admission criteria would need to be modified to account for the Fresh Start people to allow for conditional admissions, with additional requirements for those students.
 - Give flexibility to graduate directors to not have to review Affiliate Graduate Faculty members annually, to extend the affiliate status for an additional year.
 - We have nothing in our guidelines currently about transfer credits for Doctoral programs; the EdD program would be changed to allow for more transfer credits from other institutions. The DNP program would not be changed affected.
- Discussion of the nomination process from different colleges; Pott College has been accepting nominations; LA representatives will speak to their college; HP and RCoB elections will be in March or April.
 - Rex is looking into the other University Committees that Faculty Senate elects people for and will report to us next meeting.
- Old business: Charge 2020.34 Establishment of Priorities for Financial Exigency; will put this on the agenda for the next meeting.
- New business: Charge 2021.01: CORE 39 Assessment postponement
 - MT does not believe that the CORE 39 assessment should be postponed.
 - The assessment committee has already worked with faculty to ensure that the scheduled course assessments could be completed. There are some classes whose key assignments were not possible, because they were in-class assignments, and those have been delayed. A number of other assessments have also been postponed.
 - There is not a lot of time before the next HLC visit, and the "new" Core was our special project. It is not a good time to postpone our assessment.
 - It is not the purview of the Core 39 Director to decide to or not to conduct the assessment, but it's not necessarily the purview of the Faculty Senate either.
 - The data that we get in this environment is not going to be comparable to the data that we have from before. It will tell us *something*, but not what we want to know.
 - The two assessments that are being made, before and during the pandemic, are dissimilar data. The charge seems to have an underlying fear that these two conditions will be merged together indiscriminately, and perhaps addressing that will help assuage the concerns.

- The Core assessments should be being done in the Core 39 courses anyway, even the ones that are not being used for Core 39 assessment.
- The HLC website has guidance for institutions that are undergoing assessment during the pandemic, and they provide suggestions for how to contextualize the assessment done during the pandemic. The link to the COVID-19 guidance website is: <https://www.hlcommission.org/General/coronavirus-updates.html>, and to the instructions: https://download.hlcommission.org/CriteriaEvaluationsDuringCOVID-19_2020_PRC.pdf
- A motion was made to table the charge until the next meeting. However, the CCAFS have already begun the assessment process for this semester. Vote called: 6 in favor, 6 opposed, 1 abstention. Chair voted opposed; motion to postpone was defeated.
- Vote was taken to accept the charge to postpone assessment: 2 in favor, 11 opposed, no abstentions. Charge was defeated. The Core 39 director was asked to develop guidance surrounding the use of pandemic assessment data to be distributed to the faculty.
- Adjourned: 4:18 pm

Minutes recorded by Brandon Field, secretary.