

## Faculty Senate meeting

23 April 2021

Senators in Attendance: Rex Strange, Brandon Field, Steve Gruenewald, Adrian Gentle, Bartell Berg, Kenny Purcell, Laura Bernhardt, Mary Doerner, Marilyn Ostendorf, Peter Cashel-Cordo, Sang woo Heo, Charles Conaway, Michael Strezewski, Jinsuk Yang.

Other Attendees: Mohammed Khayum, Shelly Blunt, Amy Chan Hilton, Curt Gilstrap, Shelby Clark.

- Held via Zoom meeting. Called to order: 2:33 pm.
- Approval of previous minutes:
  - Approved unanimously, with spelling corrections and one minor edit.
- Chair's Report:
  - We have not yet received all of the end of year reports from the subcommittees, so Rex is requesting that Senate meet again Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Rex suggested that some form of the body meet over the summer to review updates and increase the lines of communication.
  - Rex talked with HR regarding Charge 2021.03 regarding the mandatory Training for Members of Search Committees.
    - Since 2014, there has been no change in policy regarding training of employees that serve on search committees.
    - It is common practice at other institutions that accept federal financial aid, because USI is considered to be a federal contractor and therefore has an obligation to offer training.
    - HR is 'all ears' for ways to improve the current process and make it more efficient.
    - Could we request a less formal (i.e. shorter) training from HR that would still fulfill their requirements? Could this be done within the College?
  - At-Large Elections: nominations were circulated.
    - Some people who had volunteered have since unvolunteered, and some people had volunteered who did not fulfill the requirements for the committee (untenured faculty who had volunteered for the Grievance and Hearing Committee), and the corrected list will be forwarded to OPRA for a ballot to be sent out.
  - Elections for non-Senate Committees;

- Student Publications Committee, which requires three members from Senate, of which Senate has not been sending representatives for several years. The following people had volunteered for staggered terms: Susanna Hoeness-Krupsaw, English—one year, John Morris, Communication (Radio/Television)—two years, Jane Weatherred, Communication (Public Relations and Advertising)—three years
    - These people were approved unanimously with no abstentions.
    - Faculty Senate Representative to the CETL Advisory Board: that can wait until the Fall, once the new representatives have been selected.
    - The Data Governance Committee has been disbanded, so we no longer have to pick someone for that.
  - Vaccinations for the Fall Semester:
    - An email discussion took place since last meeting. It seems that Senate would be uncomfortable with a requirement that students be vaccinated given the ‘emergency use’ status of the vaccines. However, some had suggested the possibility that incentives could be provided to encourage vaccination.
    - Since that conversation, the Pfizer is preparing the paperwork for formal approval of their vaccine and that a growing number of schools have made announcements that they will require vaccinations for the fall semester, if the vaccines receive formal approval. However, it was pointed out that a regular FDA approval process takes 3 to 5 years.
    - It was suggested that the Faculty Senate strongly encourages vaccination.
- Provost’s Report:
  - Still have questions about Fall class modalities. Students who are advising for fall are asking for in-person classes. The guidelines for higher ed have not been developed. If there are experiments that we could run on our classrooms over the summer to try to get a handle on what might be acceptable, Brandon volunteered to help with that.
  - Looking at the charge for extending the timeline for tenure and promotion faculty, and are leaning in that direction. There were faculty members identified who were eligible for an extension, with the option to opt out. This will probably not be granted for the people coming in this Fall, but would be offered for people who joined last Fall.
  - Today is the final voting on the State budget, so we should have something final next week once the Governor signs off.
  - Enrollment: We had announced 1525 new freshmen as our target, we are not quite there. Typical years usually see a big jump in May and June; last year is

- was not until June that we saw a bump. The incoming freshmen students are looking for something more than a virtual session. Some of the students who had indicated intent to enroll have not responded yet, and some have rescinded that intent. We will know by the end of June if we're on track or not.
- Digital materials for promotion and tenure: going to send out a request to the Colleges that people considering going up for promotion to Full Professor pre-declare that so that OPRA can pull the Course Perception Survey data over the summer.
  - Old business: Charge 2020-34, regarding Establishment of Priorities during Financial Exigency
    - Charge was discussed.
  - Assessment Committee Report: Curt Gilstrap
    - Motion was made to approve the Assessment Committee Report.
    - Since Becca Neal has moved in to an Assistant Director position of the Library, she may not be able to serve as chair of the committee, so they are going to look into an alternate chair.
    - Report was approved unanimously.
  - Student Affairs Committee report was accepted by unanimous vote.
  - Promotions Committee report was accepted unanimously also.
  - Grievance Committee did not meet this year, and therefore did not submit a report.
  - Next meeting: Next Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - Adjourned at 4:10 pm.

Minutes recorded by Brandon Field, secretary.