Text

Description automatically generated

Faculty Senate Meeting held via MS Teams

Apr-05-2021, Started at 11:00am ET.

Senators in attendance: Adam Kubik, Anthony Stinson, Augustine Ayuk, Brian Hunt, Byron Jeff, David Williams (Chair), Deborah Gritzmacher, Erin Nagel, Eugene Ngezem, Gail Barnes, Jelani Favors, Kendolyn Smith (Vice Chair), Larry Menter (Secretary), Laura Herndon, Mario Norman (By Proxy), Mark Watson, MeriBeth Stegall, Rebecca Morgan and Robert Pfeiffer

Non-Senators in attendance: Tim Hynes (President), Kevin Demmitt (Provost), Jill Lane (Associate Provost), Ade Thompson, Carol White, Eric Bridges, Keira Davis and Michael Sitvarin

* Proposed Agenda: Unanimous consent to approve as presented – no objection – Agenda adopted.
* Approval of Minutes from Oct-05-2020 – Any changes or edits? Attendance needs to be added. With the addition to be made motion made, seconded and passed.
* Approval of Minutes from Mar-15-2021 – No changes – Motion made, seconded and passed. Dave has gotten inquiries about the Faculty Senate and logistics. Encourage colleagues to follow the directions in Dave’s Notice emails.
* President’s Report – Attached in Files in MS Teams
  + Minutes show acceptance of March 1st & 15th meetings with time extension for Promotion and Tenure under COVID-19 relief. President noted that this still is within the Board’s timelines.
  + “Budget is always an adventure” – more complicated this year. FY 2021 cuts have been partially restored. Proportionality back to the Units. Discussion process with Deans and others. Passage of next year’s budget is next.
* Not yet received report from the BoR as to allocations for next year. Open campus meetings via Teams will be held after the information is given. Rescue Plan will bring funds in and half of them will go to students.
* Parking – he will still follow-up on this and/or please directly contact Chief Long with your concerns.
* Fall Reopening – reformulate the planning work groups. It will be determined by public health emergency on the ground at that time.
* Interim Provost Search – Interviewing to commence soon.
* Q’s: Any Q’s?
* Continued budget discussion. Planning and Budget Advisory committee tomorrow. The funds coming from the Federal assistance plans could be an incredible ability to make education more affordable. No salary increases approved in budget passed by the State Legislature. No further information till next week.
* No additional info on Chancellor search.
* No further Q’s.
* Provost’s Report
* Just back from post-vaccine family trip. Decision made for in person commencement. We will be following all the CDC guidelines. Reducing seating – multiple ceremonies – up to six ceremonies. Fifteen seats per ceremony for faculty. Will try to fairly distribute those seat tickets. Planning on fully restoring travel budget for next year if approved by the System.
* Q’s: Any Q’s?
  + Interim – once named will be included in all meetings and the budget process. They will be involved in planning for next year.
  + No further Q’s.
* Standing Committee Reports
  + APC – No news to report
  + FAC – Update by Senator Larry Menter. Committee is working on a resolution to assist those whose post-tenure review may have been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our challenges are the inflexible rules/calendar in the BoR’s rules and policies for Post-Tenure Reviews. So the strategy will be asking for “compassionate” reviews by the Reviewers.
  + SAC – No news
  + UCC
    - Approval of UCC actions from their Mar-12 meeting – Presented on screen. No discussion. Vote taken for Approval of actions. Approval was passed.
    - Point of Information: UCC has a lot to get through, but likely will not be able to get through everything they’ve been asked to look at in time to provide it for the Apr-19 Senate meeting. It is extremely likely that we will need to finalize UCC actions at a Senate meeting on May-03.
* Further discussion of fall break for fall 2021. Survey results were shown with 695 respondents about the fall break. There was not a strong consensus. No motion to change anything was proffered. The Chair shared the comments of faculty and students with discussion held about the survey and the students’ opinions. Senator Byron Jeff will help the Chair to formulate communication to faculty about this.
* Discussion
* Any further topics to discuss? None raised.

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 12:20pm.

Minutes Recorded by Larry Menter, Secretary