Faculty Senate Meeting held via MS Teams

Mar-01-2021 Started at 11:00 am ET

Senators in attendance: David Williams (Chair), Kendolyn Smith (Vice Chair), Larry Menter (Secretary), Augustine Ayuk, Scott Bailey, Gail Barnes, Jelani Favors, Deborah Gritzmacher, Laura Herndon, Brian Hunt, Byron Jeff, Chris Kodani, Adam Kubik, Rebecca Morgan, Eugene Ngezem, Mario Norman, Robert Pfeiffer, Heather Ruggiero, Meri Beth Stegall, Anthony Stinson, Mark Watson

Non-Senators in attendance: Tim Hynes (President), Kevin Demmitt (Provost), Jill Lane, Eric Bridges, Joie Hain, Mary Lamb, Antoinette Miller, Erin Nagel, Melanie Poudevigne, Carol White

* Proposed Agenda:

Agenda adopted without objection.

* Approval of Minutes from Feb-15-2021 – Motion to approve and seconded with corrections (added Meri Beth Stegall as attendee)
* President’s Report – Attached in Files in MS Teams
* “Beautiful day in the neighborhood – I’m here and feeling good about that.”
* They will be releasing strategies for deciding interim provost by end of April. So have transition time with current Provost.
* Faculty not immediately included in expanded Vaccine list. Asked campus community who is interested so have backups for non-used vaccines.
* Chancellor Search & President Search – more info in Report. Links to progress to monitor.
* Budget Process – Info on bonuses for salaries less than $80K/year to be shared by info from HR.
* Thanks for continued work for nearly year under pandemic!
* Q’s – About the new J&J vaccine. No news on that status. We are supposed to get a large portion of Pfizer today or tomorrow. In the past, Moderna has been available. Pfizer allows for more number of doses. Polly Parks UHS will send out info. Moderna – packs of 100, Pfizer in packs under 1,000.
* Commencement info will be coming out. Recommendation builds on model of Columbus State – Drive in elements – Social Distancing – indoors unlikely, outside no room for guests.
* With faculty not getting vaccine is there still a push by the Chancellor to move to more on campus? Safety faculty and staff in mind. Chancellor and BoR pushing for faculty to be included in 1B group. Univ System wants to move as quickly as possible. Tim hopes access to vaccine will continue and the institution will be prepared relatively soon.
* Provost’s Report– Attached in Files in MS Teams
* Declines in Enrollment – partly due to new regs reducing dual enrollment, also Covid impact. The number of graduates is up 155. Budget is ok so no mid-year reductions. Summer looking good so far.
* Board of Regents General Education Curriculum Redesign Project – Unlikely that Board would entertain this design at this time. Earliest would be in the fall, delayed too by change in Chancellor.
* Payroll process now being centralized with BoR. All contracts will be through OneUSG. No changes in dates but will be the way to get and sign contracts rather than Tammy Wilson.
* Q’s? – Discussions were then held regarding the drop in enrollment and the possible causes – COVID-19 and change to dual enrollment qualifications. Also was raised an issue regarding summer enrollment proration of pay for smaller classes. Policy remains the same as of now.
* Standing Committee Reports
  + APC – Update by Senator Mario Norman. They met last week and discussed 3 options for academic calendar. They are making recommendations to the Provost office for dates of fall semester and fall break, if any.
  + FAC – Update by Senator Larry Menter

Resolution in support of relief to tenure-track faculty for COIVD-19 Promotion and Tenure procedure impacts. There was Discussion of this plan and how the BoR policies don’t provide for the same type of relief for Post-Tenure Review. Discussion – Can we get feedback from anyone on the Post-tenure review? Sent to FAC for further discussion.

Discussion ended.

Call for vote on the Motion. All voted in favor, the motion carries. Text of Resolution attached in Files in MS Teams.

* + SAC – No updates. Waiting on Handbook Committee
  + UCC – Approval of actions from Feb-12-2021 meeting – Sent changes from Dept of English. Change of Curriculum guide. – Motion to Approve these changes – Motion Passed. Approved.
* Discussion – Continued discussion about how to tackle post tenure review and non-tenure track as well. Gail Barnes gave example of research that stopped in its tracks due to COVID. Might pursue what we did last year. FAC will pursue and discuss further. Also was suggested about delaying remedial process for those who are deficient in their Post-Tenure, Non-Tenure and Pre-Tenure Reviews. Any suggestions please forward to Chair Dave Williams and Senator Larry Menter – FAC Chair.

Meeting was adjourned by Chair declaration at 12:21pm

Minutes Recorded by Larry Menter, Secretary