

Minutes of Senate Faculty Affairs Committee Meeting

June 2020

Date and time: June 30, 2020, 10:30 am - Noon

Location: Zoom

Present: Chris Bonneau, Lorraine Denman, Tom Diacovo, Irene Frieze, Vicki Gamble, Cynthia Golden, Suzanna Gribble, Sandra Guzman, Robin Kear, Laurie Kirsch, Marty Levine, Patrick Loughlin, Carol Mullen, Vinayak Sant, Tom Songer, Jay Sukits, Amy Tuttle, Preeti Venkatesan, Lu-in Wang, Seth Weinberg, and Frank Wilson

Absent: Helen Calahane and Morgan Pierce

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by I. Frieze at 10:32 am.

1. Introductions
 - a. L. Kirsch introduced our new Vice-Provost for Faculty Affairs
2. Minutes approval
 - a. May 2020 minutes motioned for approval by I. Fireze, T. Songer 2nd, minutes approved.
3. Fall 2020 preparations
 - a. L. Denman reviewed messaging from Provost regarding Flex@Pitt
 - i. No documentation necessary for being remote
 - ii. Unclear who is managing classroom when instructor is remote, possible power dynamic for asking someone other than instructor to be in the room. (i.e. grad or undergrad students, staff)
 - iii. C. Golden indicated the examples of who could help with classroom operations. “Playbook” being developed in the CTL and planning virtual workshops. Reinforced that decisions are made locally in the department and by faculty.
 - iv. C. Bonneau commented that this is a difficult uncertain situation, that we are not alone, encouraged faculty to wait until all decisions are made, more information will be disseminated today through the remainder of the week.
 - v. C. Bonneau reinforced that a “classroom experience” does not mean faculty in the classroom necessarily.

- b. Fully asynchronous course not permitted. L. Denman use of remote vs synchronous or asynchronous need to be clarified.
- c. T. Songer concerned about the audio in the large rooms, possibly the weakest link in the classroom technology.
- d. L. Denman asked how many students are requesting to return to campus?
 - i. C. Bonneau said no specific numbers on how many, but the demand for on-campus housing all-time high.
- e. P. Loughlin stated the safety depends on behavior of the college students, out of class experiences will impact in-class experience because of infecting others.
 - i. C. Bonneau said the operating postures of the University could be more restrictive than those put out by the Allegheny County Health Department.
- f. T. Songer stated there is an inability to plan, we are six weeks out and more pressure on AS faculty to get things right because of contractual basis of employment.
- g. V. Sant Pharmacy AS faculty have evaluations in the back of their mind and feel they need to do more. Inquired about the PPE enforcement?
 - i. C. Bonneau indicated the student Code of Conduct is being revised and non-compliance could result in conduct violation. Not sure recourse for faculty if they need to throw someone out of the classroom.
 - ii. J. Sukits stated the University is responsible to set the requirements and process
- h. S. Guzman asked if the University will pay for COVID testing
 - i. C. Bonneau stated the Health Advisory Group is developing a testing protocol
- i. L. Denman asked about specific advice for Canvas, Flex@Pitt
 - i. C. Golden said that 2726 faculty have attended Canvas training, 1300 courses, since Fall 2019 have been offered on Canvas. There will be more consultants available in CTL to help.
 - ii. L. Denman inquired about accessibility issues and updates from ODI and CTL
 - 1. C. Golden pointed to resources available on CTL website
- j. L. Denman asked about a contact tracing update
 - i. C. Bonneau stated Health Advisory Group working on tracing
 - ii. Some concern among faculty about implementation of contact tracing, privacy issues, long-term storage/access of information
 - iii. C. Bonneau – thought it might be a good idea to invite Geovette Washington to July meeting to discuss contact tracing.
- k. I. Frieze asked about access to faculty offices
 - i. C. Bonneau stated that University remains in emergency posture until 7/13/20 where we will move to a less restrictive posture
 - ii. P. Loughlin emphasized the importance of access for those teaching in the fall in order to prepare for courses, it is also important for access to test out new classroom technology.

4. L. Denman informed that July meeting will be held on the 21st @ 10:30
5. L. Denman reminded the committee of Faculty Assembly on 7/7/2020, a link will be sent out.

Meeting adjourned 12:05 pm