

Faculty Senate Minutes
September 4, 2020

Open Session 11:30 pm – 12:05 pm

Virtual: <https://tamusa.webex.com/tamusa/j.php?MTID=m42bce32ab4c5f778cbe6fa41e86f09bb>

Call to Order 11:32 am

Approval of Minutes

Matthew Mangum motioned to approve the minutes, the motion was seconded by Leonard Love.

approve = 18

disapprove = 0

sustain = 0

Minutes were approved.

Administrative Update

Provost O'Brien:

- Dr. O'Brien reported on campus related matters. The number of students present on campus at one time is low.
- A student survey found the following:
Ease of scheduling: 10% disappointed; 80% highly/satisfied. Student advisors are doing a remarkable job.
- Biggest issue: Books; students are not receiving their books from Follett/ebooks. There are an estimated 300 emails per day regarding this matter. Meetings are held daily to find solutions to handling the 'Jaguar Day One' situation. The President, the Provost, and Cathy are working on coming up with decisions to address this problem.
- Students exposed to COVID: A message went out this week clarifying the process of how to handle these situations.

President Teniente-Matson:

Dr. Teniente-Matson presented a ppt addressing the following:

- Community. Safety. Together. website has been visited quite frequently. There is a great deal of adherence to the COVID related guidelines. Overall, there have been 37 COVID cases since March; only 2 students were positive and on campus. CFO reported zero tested positive through on campus testing; housing students are tested once a month. The University has on hand 700 test kits per month.

- The September in-person commencement has been moved to virtual a ceremony; the December commencement will also be virtual. May 2021 graduation – move to the Alamo Dome for graduation if it is possible to be held in person.
- Clawback for fiscal year 2020 is 5%; for fiscal year 2021 is also 5%. For fiscal year 22-23 a 25% reduction in Expansion Funding is possible.
Cost saving measures: Elimination of vacant faculty positions and staff = 3.1 million;
- Lecturers that are on 3-year contracts: Are included in the budgets. So far there are no planned furlows or lay-offs. The president has been working on building a reserve to see the University through pandemic related budget problems.
- Summer and Fall enrollment show a significant growth due to dip in Summer 2019. Enrollment is holding steady/up a some.
- COVID impact on enrollment: strong pipeline. There are 6856 students currently enrolled. The University is reporting the highest number of top 10 students enrolling. Also, student housing is at capacity (175).
- Public Health Initiative: Public Health Initiative (Dr. Golla), a 3+2 program in conjunction with the College Station campus. The goal is to get more minorities into pre-med and public health.
- Workforce development: There will be a virtual townhall with Mayor Nirenberg to explain the initiative (1/8th cent sales tax) to support the workforce development initiative that will be on the ballot in November.
- Jaguar Guarantee: Financial Aid program will build on the \$125 million scholarship. The focus is on diverse talent and students. San Antonio A&M “Achiever Promise” for top 10% students across the country, and early college highschool for schools on the University’s side of the city. The intent is to move forward with this program in early October.
- Ad hoc committee on Diversity: PCOE can appoint an ad hoc member as liason.

Closed Session 12:05 pm - 1:05 pm

Executive Committee Updates

Policy on Department Chairs in terms of evaluation and/or term limits: The executive committee will be working on a policy draft. Also under consideration is to define the roles of chairs and associate chairs.

Old Business

- Jaguar Day One:

Update from the advisory committee (KC Kalmbach) – Bill Bush and Myriam Jimena Guerra will be added to the JDO committee. The committee has met twice and reviewed the contract, which seems to be a 5-year contract. The process seems opaque. They are currently working on backfilling knowledge gap.

Going forward the following options are available: keep JDO, modify JDO, or get rid of JDO. There are hundreds of students who have not received books and probably will not receive books despite having been charged for them. It is a wide spread problem even three weeks into the semester. Ursula Vaughn reports to the Provost directly. She feels that next semester would be a smoother process. A memo was requested from Ursula to get more information. There will be a survey coming out later on into the semester to query faculty regarding JDO.

- Gilbert Barrera: Reported on prior experiences with Follet/Redshelf presentation on JDO. Discussed availability of two chapters at a time to students, which he felt was very disconcerting. Brightwave seems to be the actual provider.

Update on Diversity Office as hoc committee (James Finly): The committee has been formed and include Sandra Lara, Smirti Bhat, Daniel Delgado, and Katherine Bridgeman. The initial focus is on what the DO can do, more information to come; A goal is also not to interfere with PCOA.

Student Evaluations Update

The Provost is also concerned regarding questions on the Faculty Evaluation Survey pertaining to IT matters. The Provost is going to research how these questions came to be on the evaluations.

New Business

2020 Committee Assignments

- Standing Faculty Senate Committees:
Currently there is no list for Faculty Senate Committee. Joseph Simpson asked for a list of all committees from the President. Updated faculty senate committee assignments was updated.

Leonard Love motioned to extend time for 5 minutes by Leonard Love. The motion was seconded by Kevin Barton. The motion passed.

Matthew Mangum motioned to accept the updated Committee assignment list. The motion was seconded by Leonard Love.

Accepted: 15

Rejected: 0

Abstained: 0

There was a discussion pertaining to closed versus open meetings. To be discussed further.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10pm.