

5-8-2020

2020-05-08 Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate

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Approved Minutes
Executive Committee of the Academic Senate
May 8, 2020
10:00 am – 11:30 am
Zoom meeting

Present: Joanna Abdallah, Paul Benson, Connie Bowman, James Brill, Sam Dorf, Mark Jacobs, Carissa Krane, Leslie Picca, Jason Pierce, Fran Rice, Andrea Seielstad,

Guests: Janet Bednarek (Faculty Board representative), Anne Crecelius, Shannon Driskell, Denise James, Sean Falkowski,

Excused:

Opening

- Opening prayer / meditation- Sam. Reminder to everyone Prayer/Meditation sign-up sheet is in the shared folder
- Approval of minutes from 5/01/2020 ECAS meeting— approved.

Announcements

- Update from Provost's Council Meeting. The certificate in community arts engagement, the sport communication certificate and the master of construction engineering and management were approved. Discussion topics included an overview of the early launch program for first year students beginning in the second summer session and path forward planning. APC online teaching recommendations were approved.

New Business

- Follow-up from Town Hall meetings: what wasn't heard?
 - Will UD one of the schools that will not require ACT or SAT scores?
 - How much money was saved from the cuts? If there are further measures, the faculty needs to be included in the discussion. Response: measures taken has saved \$40M. No further actions are being contemplated.
 - How can we collectively prepare ourselves for new levels of activity and collaboration over the summer when there are people off contract.
 - Need a more robust discussion around what solidarity means to this institution
 - From the NTT standpoint, July 1 is the date they will know if they will receive a contract, is that accurate? Response: Administration hopes to have a decision by July 1, to provide sufficient time to prepare to teach or to prepare for not receiving a contract.
 - Where did the layoffs happen and to whom?
 - There is a need to provide coordinated and iterative feedback to people planning, also need feedback provided to those offering an iterative response.
 - If there were a significant shortfall, how would UD close the gap? Response: If the worst-case scenario played out, long term investment pools would come into play.
 - Is there a dollar amount or debt level figure that defines a financial exigency?

- If everyone returns to campus, what safety procedures are being considered for faculty and staff? Response: There is no expectation that everyone would be back and some would probably need to continue to work from home for a variety of reasons.
- Need to articulate the process and the criteria might be if additional cuts need to be made. There are areas on campus that provide critical work and support faculty and staff but are not as visible as those on the front lines.
- Need to ensure we're practicing shared governance, not only at the table, but also part of the decision making.
- Recommendations for discussion points at the Faculty Meeting on May 15 and ELC meeting on May 18
 - What can we do to help in preparing to return to campus?
 - What type of coordination and feedback are in place to ensure participation
 - Want more granularity with the budget
 - Want to be involved more in the decision-making process
 - Suggest weekly postings to a website, not just in emails. There is a need for more regular, timely communications.
 - Ensure the path forward groups share their work with other groups on campus like ECAS, ELC and the President's Commission on the Status of Women and learn how these groups might be able to use this information. Response: The work of the path forward groups is iterative, there may not be anything to share until the end of May.
 - There are demographic and diversity concerns around who has been impacted by furloughs or layoffs. Decisions were based around the position not the person, but there are some positions that are perpetually biased. The majority of NTT and administrative support staff are overwhelmingly women.
- ECAS Reps on Budget Alignment Steering Committee—Leslie agreed to serve on this committee.
- Request proposal from Senator M.E. Dillon (Re: NTT representation)— Committee members discussed whether Recommendation 1 and 2 would require changes to the Constitution of the Academic senate and whether Recommendation 3 is out of the purview of ECAS. An alternative proposal to designate an ad hoc NTT member for each committee was also discussed. The committee agreed to review the Senate governing documents more carefully and return to this issue in the next meeting.
- Draft transfer credit policies from Associate Provost Carolyn Phelps— Due to time limitations, will be held for a future ECAS meeting.
- UNRC bylaws revision — Due to time limitations, will be held for a future ECAS meeting.

Old Business

(Will be updated in late May so we can focus on COVID-19 response)

Adjourned: 11:30 am

Respectfully submitted, Fran Rice