

5-29-2020

2020-05-29 Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate

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Approved Minutes
Executive Committee of the Academic Senate
May 29, 2020
10:00 am – 11:30 am
Zoom meeting

Present: Joanna Abdallah, Paul Benson, Connie Bowman, James Brill, Sam Dorf, Deo Eustace, 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- Leslie
- Approval of minutes from 5/15/2020 ECAS meeting—Minutes approved.

Announcements

- Next ECAS meeting Friday, June 6, 10am-11:30am
- **Prayer/Reflection sign up:** <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Fr65V-Pggk1WSH0NmtDJYnfzlx3bh-fVnKIOzTPjtBM/edit>

New Business

- Debrief from Faculty Meeting (Friday, May 15), ELC (Monday, May 18), and Provost's Office email "Preparing for Fall Term teaching flexibility"
 - If we return to campus, who decides if faculty return to the classrooms too, or will faculty have the option to teach fully online Response: There is no answer yet, this is being discussed by the academic working group. They are considering some type of survey about returning to campus.
 - Will sub-contractors, like Alpha Omega, be included in the furlough/layoff analysis?
 - Will athletics be taking any salary reductions?
 - If faculty have health issues, should students be informed that their class will be totally online? Response: We are not at the point to determine which classes will be taught online. The decision on the delivery method for classes lies within the departments.
 - From chat: I think we need more direction/insight at the department and unit level about how we will deliver instruction. I am a proponent of giving faculty many options for the delivery of their courses. I worry that the way we are talking about options will have us seriously ad hoc Fall that will be worse for us in the long run
 - How will P&T reviews be conducted? Response: There are many types of reviews conducted, including P&T. There will be a sub-team created to look at all reviews. UNRC will solicit nominations to serve on the sub-team.
 - For clarity, define terms like "online class" or "hybrid class" to students.
 - There are policies, like the workload policy, that will need to be revised over the summer and approved by the Senate. We will be expected to teach differently, online and in the classroom—how many times do we deliver the class; once, twice or three times—how will this be counted for workload?

- How will the safety of faculty, staff and students be maintained, especially during this political climate? Response: This is all under discussion. Being a private institution, we do have discretion on how to enforce social distancing, etc. No one will be fired, but people not adhering to guidelines could be forced to work from home.
- Pre-tenured faculty need communication around the process for P&T reviews during this time. The Senate could help with publicly posting minutes and meeting agendas. Working groups could be encouraged to maintain a web presence for people to find, review and reference information, review and reference.
- How can social distancing be maintained outside of the classroom, especially with students? Will there be testing or self-quarantine requirements? Response: All of this is being discussed; academic issues, student issues and public health issues.
 - From chat: Contact tracing is a tricky ethical issue. That aside, while we might be able to do some robust contact tracing with residential students, this will be difficult for students, staff, and faculty who live off campus. Response: City of Dayton/Montgomery County Public Health believes that they will have sufficient contact tracing capacity to support whatever expectations the University puts in place. At this point, we have not been impressed (both for technical and for ethical reasons) with the mobile apps that some other institutions plan to use for tracing. So, the latest thinking is that we will use public health staff to support contact tracing for students, faculty, and staff.
- Clinical faculty are unwilling to prepare for fall classes if they are not guaranteed a contract.
- We can review the optional pass/fail drop deadline. We also need to consider the attendance policy. We need to learn what professional schools will accept. We need to consider how graduate programs evaluate students.
- Updates from the working groups to ECAS could target our work.
- A meeting with the President and Provost could highlight areas where the Senate should have an active and unique role.
- Invite Carolyn P. to ECAS to report on the academic taskforce.
- Not every policy needs to be reviewed but policies pertaining to the faculty (workload, who will be asked to teach) academics (grading, dismissal) or the curriculum (decisions on what courses will be taught and what will not be taught) will need to be reviewed. Response: Course offerings are decisions made at the department level not at the administrative level.
- How will decisions about CAP courses be made, which department makes the decision to ensure equal diminishment of courses. Response: There has not been discussions about cutting course sessions, the intent is to continue with the current course offerings and decide how these courses will be offered. Assuming enrollment continues to track, nearly all NTT will be brought back.
 - From chat: Invite Michelle Pautz to report on how COVID-19 may be impacting CAP.
- Will there be changes to scheduling and increased time between classes? Response: Work continues to review health protocol recommendations and their impact on class schedules and times, but no decisions have been made.
 - From chat: My concern is for international students like myself. For the spring semester, the laws were “excused” due to the pandemic, but I don’t know if that will follow in the Fall. International students are required to be full time students during the fall and spring semesters. As a graduate student, I am not allowed to take more than one online course

during these semesters or else I do not count as a full-time student. I know that the CIP is probably working on this, but I hope that this is kept in mind. Response: Yes, the CIP is tracking your question closely and will continue to do so. All of the signals we currently have indicate that the exemption for online course work will continue to be in place throughout next year for international students.

- From chat: Are there discussions about making sure that students from different years (1st, thru 4th) have equal access to in-person and online so that 1st years who are in large enrollment classes aren't disproportionately affected by only online options. Comment: I am on the subgroup looking at classroom size, and I will share this concern with the group. I am wondering if we have control over this issue though. Comment: I'm worried about equity overall of in person vs online. Whether it be by grade level, department, etc. Hence my support for a more fully online for all.
- Strategizing ECAS Consultation in Decision Making Special Academic Senate Meeting June 12? Consultation on implementing UD Path Forward
 - Agree to senate meeting on June 12
 - Include discussion on the online learning report
 - Discuss proposal for NTT representation to all three Senate standing committees
 - Focus on senate consultation on all proposals/scenarios from working groups
- Quality Online Learning Report—Discussion
 - In 2019-20, Approved at APC; presented at ECAS & Senate Report—Discussion--Due to time limitations, will be held for a future ECAS meeting.

Old Business

- Request Proposal #1 from Senator M.E. Dillon (Re: NTT Representation)
 - Appoint NTT faculty to 2 standing committees

Adjourned: 11:30 am

Respectfully submitted, Fran Rice