

Minutes of the
48th Faculty Senate Meeting
on
Wednesday, January 19, 2022
prepared by
Alexander W. Taylor
Faculty Senate Secretary

Attendance:

- All in attendance with the following exceptions
 - R. Beemer – (No substitute)
 - A. Jornaz (J. Sadek substituting)

Meeting called to order @1530

Approval of the Agendum

- Approved with edits

Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- Postponed due to minutes not being made available

Reports

Provost:

- 42 (48?) Off-campus 7 (8-9?) on campus and 10 Faculty/Staff with Covid (numbers changed during presentation)
- No current requirement to force Zoom sessions for classes. Discretion of the instructor.
- Closing schools for inclement weather. Up to faculty as to how they handle... Communicate with the students, whatever you decide to do.
- Academic goals and initiatives – in the process of prioritization – some items “have to be done” are on prioritization list – but really won’t be prioritized, *per se*...
- Once priorities are set, then will move to forming action items – action teams will be created to facilitate.
- Explanation of the “\$100 spent” for prioritization – must spend at least \$1 on each item...
 - This is the Senate EC doing this activity (for now)
 - Action Teams will be formed from the greater faculty
- Question on the role of the Adjunct Coordinator – particularly the comment about them visiting classes and perusing course content.
- Question asking to re-iterate our COVID posture.
- Question about reporting about self-test positives for Faculty (report to Dept Chair)
- Another question about Adjunct utilization – are we going to follow national trend (of increased usage). Issues with getting adjuncts to come to NW.
- Still little info about President Search. Hooyman is confident the BoR will use Faculty and Staff will be part of the process. Unsure as to how they will implement, though.

- Change to Faculty Positions – the “Online Lecturer” – Do we have one yet? Answer – not yet...

President:

- Covid-19 mitigation and leadership – information passed on to Provost
 - Some chairs haven’t been enforcing mask policies...
- Policy on Policies – changes approved by BOR, reflected updates on group/administrator levels but no changes in substance
- Changes to workflow still being considered and making their way to final approval
- HURON – real long-term data vs Covid-19 trends
 - We are requesting that the data be separated (Hooyman is handling)
- Recruitment events – weekends?
 - Pass on reports if weekend requests are occurring.
 - Sabio is request a full-time position to run Proctoring center
 - Idea is to create a longer term institutional knowledge on processes and policies – as opposed to students handling (which move on too quickly)
 - Faculty Senate asked to support via a Memo
 - Comment that we need more info on the need and justification
 - There has been issues in the past – is it appropriate to have students proctoring other students

Academic Petitions:

- No presentation due to time constraints

Academic Appeals:

- No presentation due to time constraints

Curriculum and Degree Requirements:

- No presentation due to time constraints

Designated Curricular Matters

- No presentation due to time constraints

Assessment

- No presentation due to time constraints

Faculty Welfare:

- No presentation due to time constraints

Budget and Finance

- No presentation due to time constraints

Teaching and Learning

- No presentation due to time constraints

Legislative Committee

- No presentation due to time constraints

COTE, Grad Council, IRB, Animal Welfare, University Seminar

- No presentation due to time constraints
- *Note: Marcus McGee (Animal Welfare) has left the University (Taylor)*

Old Business

- No presentation due to time constraints

New Business

Guest Speaker LT Cullin and Dr Gerald Wilmes

- Cases are increasing – 235 cases (5 day basis) in Nodaway County – Staff and supply chain issues.
- 447 (10 day basis) rate for Nodaway County (prior reporting)
- Faculty absenteeism is relatively low. Many departments are using a Hybrid model to cope with absences.
- Monitoring Facilities, IT, Maintenance, Reslife, etc. closely (Critical infrastructure) reporting as to operational status.
- Question about State AG position on mask mandates - - we have received no direct guidance.
- How often is LT meeting with NW Leadership. Answer “regularly” (i.e., dodged the question)
- For students to avoid quarantine they must have Booster, now, as well as be asymptomatic if they are a close contact.
- Question on how to handle students who use home testing vs Medical professional? No guidance yet on how they will handle. Only 1/3 are getting tested at Wellness center.
- Comment from Senate on the variation on how reporting is happening – some directly from student to instructor. Consider asking them to report to wellness... However, Wellness center is the standard – Faculty is not required to accommodate self-reported COVID-related absences
- The reporting chain for faculty with COVID is unclear – the tracking mechanism may be under-reporting cases – due to faculty only reporting to Dept chair – and the information stopping there.
- Dr. Wilmes was asked about whether Omicron will trend downwards by mid-Feb. Other countries are seeing 4 weeks from awareness to peak. No clear answer (unsusprisingly).

Krista Barcus/Adam 2021 NW Employee Engagement Survey

- Slide deck on Employee Survey presented
- Role of Leader/Facilitator (Barcus)
 - Question as to who these people are... A: It is Faculty Senate?
 - Question as to where this information is? A number of senators did not get information – apparently it came from an outside source.

- Email came from Workforce Science on 06JAN22
 - User names and passwords may not work...
- Department and School senators are the lead – At-large senators will not be leading...
- Leaders will work with units to develop 3-4 Strengths and 3-4 Opportunities
- Some basic instructions on how to use Emotional Intelligence.
- Setting ground rules up front.
- Request to get a copy of Barcus' slide deck
- Request to get copy of the reports directly –
- Data is condensed from a 5 point scale to a % pos or negative scale
- Methods and overall results (Adam) – Slide deck made available to Senators
 - Trends – improvement based on 2019 scores (slight)
 - Strengths – Quality Scores – Frontline Leaders/Managers
 - Opportunities – Future Vision, Leveraging leaders and managers in forwarding Vision
 - Educational Services Norm – 19 institutions similar to ours – for comparison purposes
 - Dept Chair are not to attend the meetings (but Asst chairs may attend)
 - HR will not automatically attend; however, they will attend if requested.
 - Timeframe expectations. About 1.5 hours
 - Confidentiality will be maintained.
 - Due date for feedback is 25FEB22

Update on Presidential Search

- Adam and Alexander requested to meet with BoR about the search next week.
- Hope to have more info next meeting

Continuation of Zoom Meetings

- Not discussed due to time restraints

Items from the Floor

- No items from the floor

Closed Sessions

- Meeting cut short due to running over.

Adjournment

- Adjourned at 1732