

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Red Rocks Community College
May 5th, 2020

Senators Present: Robert Vroman, Meredith Hibt, Janet Tarase, Sally Stablein, Chelsea Campbell, Heather Duncan, Jeffrey Kaplan, Erika Iverson, Helena Martellaro, Brandon English, Benjamin Rogers, Kyle Whitecotton, John Padgett,

Senators Absent:

Non-Senators Present: Linda Comeaux, Jeremy Cox, Linda Pace, Eleanor Camann, Carol Martin, Tim K, Paul Weinrauch

VPI Updates the Senate- Linda discussed looming budget cuts with the Senate after meeting with the Chairs. The institution predicts a decrease in enrollment for the Summer and Fall (decreasing revenue from tuition and fees), and a decrease in state funding. Right now, the “best case” scenario predicts a 15% enrollment drop in the summer and a 20 - 25% drop in the fall, and a hopeful recovery in the Spring. This “best-case” scenario would portend a \$4.2 million revenue loss. “Worst-case” scenario would portend over \$7.5 million revenue loss. Some of this loss can be recovered somewhat with money left over in reserves, but the institution must be cautious about using too much of the reserve funds in case there is another crisis or extenuating circumstances.

The institutional goal is to preserve all the full-time positions and make other cuts across the college. There is an anticipated 10% cut in operating budgets, with an acknowledgement that some areas of operation cannot be cut 10%. There will be cuts to adjunct instruction through the decrease in course sections in summer and fall. Travel reimbursement will be limited to mileage for college activity, but travel for professional development will not be reimbursed. Hourly employee spending will also need to be reduced drastically, the VPI stated that she will be *micro managing* the hourly budget. Some positions will require a high standard of justification to necessitate their continuance. The VPI asked the chairs what they would do if they didn't have an hourly budget (understanding that there are some areas where this is not a possibility) to see how departments could reduce their hourly spending as much as possible and have the least amount of negative impact on learning objectives.

Discussion For Fall Semester- The president asked the senate how they think the campus should operate in the fall? Should we do everything remotely, should we try to start face-to-face, should we do things remotely with exceptions for classes that cannot be taught remotely, perhaps aim for a hybrid learning scenario which would limit the population density on campus? Should we make that decision now or should we wait to decide until June 1st to have a better idea of the variables at play. NOTE- The decision regarding on-campus activity is only up to the senate or specific departments in so much as the governor and the institution deem that on-campus classes are not a threat to public health.

Some senators felt that another semester of remote-only delivery would be the worst-case-scenario, and that ideally there would be face-to-face classes, or at the very least begin the semester on campus, face-to-face. One suggestion was to perhaps conduct half of the contact hours on campus and half of the contact hours remotely, which would be extremely helpful for science and arts lab classes. There was also the question of perhaps offering any classes that could conceivably be taught online through remote delivery to decrease the population density on campus for the classes that do require an on campus presence. It was noted that a face-to-face course may be preferred, but some classrooms would only allow for a handful of students to attend class while adhering to social distancing guidelines.

The question concerning personal safety of instructors (particularly those whom are among vulnerable populations) was also raised. It was suggested that it would be up to an individual instructor whether they wanted to teach their class face-to-face or online (if that course is approved for face-to-face instruction).

It should be noted that if a department has multiple sections of the same course, (and that course is offered on CCC online), any of those sections with less than 12 students enrolled will go to CCC online. Because of this, it may be wise to limit the amount of sections, so that the enrollment isn't diluted across sections. There is a question as to what will happen to the courses that aren't offered on CCC online, and what will happen to faculty whose classes are taken by CCC online and they don't meet their base load. Robert indicated that he will work with Linda and Michele in the coming weeks to find a solution.

At this time the expectation is that there will be some on-campus classes (or at least partially on-campus) for the types of classes that cannot be taught remotely, currently, state mandated restrictions do not allow for this. At this point each college in the system is going to make the decision as to their mode of instruction. Red Rocks will ask programs to determine which of their courses can

be taught remotely and which need to be face-to-face or hybrid. There is a suggestion that students would be able to meet on the first day or during the first week. There is a sentiment that some classes may not reasonably translate to hybrid or remote instruction, which may dictate that these classes aren't offered in the fall. It is noted that if certain classes weren't offered, some students would be set back in their degree planning.

Senate Format Moving Forward – With the new Departmental Leadership Model being implemented over the summer, it is necessary to re-evaluate the representational paradigm of Faculty Senate. It was proposed that the format of Faculty Senate be presented as a topic of discussion to faculty during the faculty luncheon of Work-Week before the Fall semester. This would allow some departments to have a better idea of how the DLM works and how that would affect departmental representation on senate.