

Senate Meeting Notes

9/8/2020

3:45 – 4:45

Senators Present: Eleanor Camann, Chelsea Campbell, Heather Duncan, Erika Iverson, Chris Javan, Jeffrey Kaplan, Derek Lan, John Padgett, Leah Rogin-Roper, Sally Stablein, Janet Tarase, Robert Vroman

Senators Absent: Tim Kjensrud, Benjamin Rogers

Visitors: Kelly-Jo Eldredge (sitting in for Benjamin Rogers), Paige Casabona,

Web Ex Meeting:

Meeting starts with vote: Chelsea Campbell is voted in as VP and Leah Rogin-Roper (me) is voted in as Secretary.

Robert continues by asking for issues / concerns to pass along to administration (he is meeting with Admin on Wednesday / dean meeting on Thursday).

Senators present:

Action Items:

- If you have questions / concerns to pass along to Admin about any aspect of teaching / goals etc. please get those to Robert ASAP (many of these have already been submitted by email and Robert will compile)
- If any of the requests from deans around goals seem too ambitious or inconsistent, please contact Robert.

A few issues brought by different faculty were discussed:

- Difficulties are brought up from the Science Department, particularly around labs and the feeling of the current workload being very difficult. In addition, Science addressed the late-add this semester and how it mostly seems to be students who are not going to successfully complete the course. Another professor says his experience around late-adds has been more positive. Robert points out that 6% of enrollment was in late-add students this semester.
- Goals are brought up, the question is “How stringent on goal writing are we going to be this year?” Robert says that deans are meant to be adaptable and that goals can be things like “I’m going to create this remote class, students are going to be successful, this is how I’m going to assess it...” No variance at the system level because we still have to have those from the system, but there

- is latitude in the way they are met. **There is request for consistency around goals expectations from all deans.** Some departments are being asked to include the 5-year goals (assessment, equity, and engagement with extra emphasis on assessment). Goals are due to deans by 10/1. Question: are we assessing department, program, course? Answer: Look at where you are and build upon it. Assessing students to make sure they are meeting the same outcomes is probably reasonable, and should also include evaluation.
- Next semester's schedule: class caps? How do we communicate hybrid / remote / online definitions. Are we going to have more conversations about room sizes etc. How is space in rooms calculated? What will we do about asking adjuncts / faculty to teach the same lesson multiple times? It is mentioned that particularly in labs, this is difficult. Another adjunct is teaching two different sections of the same class but only being paid for one class.
 - Faculty check-in/report (how is the semester going so far? Concerns to pass along to admin, etc.)
 - General feel is positive. Classes are going well in all their modes. On-campus teachers feel that there is space and supplies to clean. Those teaching remote feel like students are participating and engaged, though there is some difficulty for students preliminary understanding of differences in delivery methods.
 - Some difficulties are expressed, particularly around workloads; course caps (some people being asked to teach two low-enrolled classes for the price of one); and inability to socially distance in classrooms (analogy was there might be 6 feet north to south, but there is not 6 feet east to west).
 - WebEx vs. Zoom
 - Zoom sounds like it is preferred by many. Some people are paying out of pocket to use Zoom. Others are using basic free program and hoping that Zoom doesn't start enforcing a 40-minute limit.
 - Rumor has it that a license for the school is in progress. Robert will follow-up for timeline and details.
 - Aligning senate with the new department leadership model
 - Do we need to do anything to update department leadership model? Do we need realignment of Senate?
 - Math and English are basically the same as before. Other disciplines might have more dramatic shift. Senator per number of faculty vs. number of prefix is a possibility. Every prefix with 3+ faculty members should provide a rep or have the option of a proxy. No one should be forced to have a rep if they do not want to. Chairs will be given the options and have it in their court.
 - Reassign credits for 2021

- They are reassigned on a 3-year rolling average. Robert is asking that this year be ignored in those calculations. The current thinking is “that’s a great point, we’ll let you know...”
- Chair vs Faculty role
 - Chairs are still faculty with same responsibilities and protections, just a faculty member with additional duties that you get reassign credit for.
- SFAC Report / Review of information received in response to Braziller's e-mail
 - Do we want Braziller to come in at the end of Faculty Senate meetings?
 - Responses are that minutes are that minutes are an effective and thorough way to convey SFAC info, but that it would be nice to have Braziller talk about specific issues that affect faculty (i.e. faculty evaluations) on an as-needed basis.