**Faculty Senate Minutes**

Wednesday, April 1, 2020

Zoom Meeting, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Attending** **Senators**: Janet Bezner, Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Natalie Ceballos, Rachel Davenport, Jesse Gainer, Jennifer Jensen, Lynn Ledbetter, Benjamin Martin, Vince Luizzi, Stan McClellan, David Nolan, Michael Supancic, Diego Vacaflores, Nicole Wesley.

**Guests**: Denise Trauth (president), Gene Bourgeois (provost), Debbie Thorne (associate provost), Mickey Autrey, Shannon Duffy (Senate Fellow), Kym Fox, Elizabeth Balmer, Bruce Gaultney, Cristian Lienek, Judy Oskam, Chase Rogers, Ya-Ching Huang, Joni Charles, De De Gardner, Cynthia Gonzalez, David Navarro, Fred Aguayo, Jie Yang, Elizabeth Eger, Gene Brenek, Cynthia Gonzales.

Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Senate Chair Bezner.

**President's Academic Advisory Group (PAAG)**

President Trauth presented information and answered questions concerning:

Update on decisions and the impact of the response to COVID-19.

* President Trauth reported on the number of cases at the university (as of March 31, there was one case reported). A faculty member tested positive and became ill while away from campus and is recovering well so far. The risk of transmission is very low.
* Grading guidelines for the spring semester have been sent out by the provost. The administration has had numerous conversations with deans, chairs, and faculty. There will be no blanket pass on grades or “A” only grades. The guidelines for the EP (Emergency Pass) grade have been sent to faculty and students. There will be more guidelines and clarification sent soon.
* Staff supervisors have been asked to be very flexible with employees. An updated list of essential offices is now available. The university is currently providing a free lunch to faculty and staff working on both campuses.
* President Trauth stated that there are incredible potential implications for student enrollment and university finances. The university should be prepared for a 5-10 percent budget cut from the State. State funding is being affected by the crisis and this could affect university finances for 3.5 years. Some open staff and faculty positions will go forward but the administration is being very selective which positions are going to be staffed. There will be more frozen faculty positions versus staff positions.
* The university is restricting travel, but once restrictions are lifted faculty will be funded to present research, etc. Currently departmental maintenance and operations (M&O) accounts are partially frozen and are essentially a savings account. The university is not pooling the funds and will keep the funds in departments. The administration will see where we are in the fall, and if everything looks good they will unfreeze the accounts. Some construction projects are moving forward.
* The university is giving students a financial credit on their account this semester for unused housing credits. Dining credits will rollover to next fall. For students graduating this semester the administration will work with students on a case by case basis. There will be no late fees. All spring sports are canceled; however, the athletic academic center is still available. The start of summer and fall registration has been delayed to April 6. There will be a virtual New Student Orientation (NSO) over the summer. All Summer I classes will be remote. Summer course details will be emailed soon to the university community.
* Electronic Course Fees (ECF) for the summer session will be charged and then given back in the form of financial aid to hold students harmless.

Potential for adjustment of the tenure clock given the COVID-19 virus.

* Adjustments to the tenure clock for tenure-track faculty will be made on a case by case basis. The administration understands that some faculty may not be able to accomplish research during this crisis so some faculty could toll the tenure clock. The same approach applies to annual faculty evaluations. The provost will craft a message and send to all faculty.

Use of spring 2020 student evaluation of learning feedback, given the shift to online learning.

* There are a lot of reasons for faculty not to have student evaluations count in their annual evaluations. The administration will wait and see what happens this spring semester, gather the data for how evaluations have gone, and adjust as necessary. Evaluations should be only one factor of many in the process.

Senators discussed the possibility of creating healthcare equipment to help local health care facilities and professionals. The university is already looking into this possibility. Concerning the requirement for faculty to be certified to teach online for Summer I, faculty may be able to count what they have already accomplished toward the standards. The administration will be coming out with a sliding scale to make sure the university meets SAC standards. The scale will be based on tools and approaches faculty members are using for their courses.

**Curriculum Committee Report**

Michael Supancic, chair of the University Curriculum Committee (UCC), presented current proposals to the faculty senate and discussed the proposed program changes. Due to COVID 19 restrictions this was an electronic review of proposals in the PIM system and an electronic ballot was created to report votes from committee members. All current proposals were approved by the committee. There were some comments and questions submitted and they were forwarded to departments. None of the questions or comments had an impact on the proposals going forward. Senators asked several questions concerning the proposed program changes.

The senate voted to suspend the rules and then voted to approve all proposals from the UCC.

**Discussion**

Senators discussed the earlier PAAG meeting and other issues concerning technology and online teaching.

For next week’s meeting the senate will be receive a report from the Academic Computing Committee, a report from the Nontenure Line Faculty Committee (NLFC), and a discussion of the NLFC workload release program. Mr. Ken Pierce, vice president for Information Technology will be invited to speak to the senate concerning technology issues that have arisen related to remote teaching.

**Approval of Minutes**

The March 25, 2020 minutes were approved by senators.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by David Nolan