

Academic Staff Senate Meeting

Monday, April 13, 2020 2:00pm-3:50pm

Present: Mike B., Katelyn B., Emily R., Zach O., Taylor W., Rob W., Kristen J., Angie K., Jon D.

Absent: none

Guests: Cory Kempf, Ephraim Kotey Nikoi, Kathy O'Flanagan

Call to Order: 2:01pm

Revision to Agenda: None

Approval of Minutes: (Zach/Taylor)

Revision to Minutes: None

Human Resources Update (Cory)

- COVID Updates
 - UW system has been asking the universities for a lot of feedback about how COVID is impacting the campuses as far as budget, operations, etc. President Cross should have some updates for the system soon.
 - There are still about 50 employees who are on campus and considered essential. Right now the big question is what are the next steps if/when a student and/or faculty/staff member tests positive for COVID. At that point there will be a reevaluation to see if things need to be shut down further.
 - Current there is a COVID leave policy to include employees who do not have the ability to telecommute. Right now that leave policy is in effect until May 1, and there are currently no plans to extend COVID leave past May 1 at this point. Currently there are still lots of moving pieces with the COVID leave right now
 - We should have some additional updates from the chancellor soon, and there is still a Board of Regents meeting scheduled for Thursday of this week.

Faculty Senate Update (Ephraim)

- An interim pass/fail and incomplete policy will be discussed in the faculty senate meeting tomorrow.
 - Students will have an additional semester to finish up incomplete courses. Students who took an incomplete in the fall 2019 would have the opportunity to complete the course through December 2020, and students who take an incomplete this spring 2020 semester would have until May 2021 to complete the course.
 - The pass/fail policy will have more flexibility than how the current policy stands. Students should be working closely with their advisor to make sure that the pass/fail is appropriate for them and that they understand the consequences (e.g. transfer credits may not be accepted at other places for pass/fail). The pass/fail process will still need to be student-initiated, and students would have until the week after final exams in order to make the final decision if they would like to take a class pass/fail or not. The student and their advisor will be able to make the decision; the instructor will not need to give permission as they have in the past.
- They are continuing to gather feedback and monitor the transition to online courses to make sure both faculty and students are successful in the new formats.
- Jeremy Nere will be at the faculty senate meeting tomorrow to talk more about how things are changing with recruitment and what that looks like with the COVID changes.
- Credits and Reinstatement
 - Students will not be suspended after this semester, but they could be put on probation.

- Things will proceed as usual for now unless additional issues come up that need to be addressed

Chair's Report (Mike)

- No additional updates

UW System Rep (Rob)

- As mentioned, system is trying to capture information about all the revenue that has been lost due to the COVID situation. It is possible that campuses might be able to receive some federal funding to make up for the loss. There has also been talk about how international recruitment might be dropping in the fall, and since UWS has a high percentage of international students that could impact our campus significantly. Information is also being collected around events that were to take place in Wessman, MWC, etc. to figure out how much revenue was lost. There is about discussion about how to send money back to students for things such as lab fees, parking permits, housing, etc.
- The TTC is being delayed until things settle down with COVID, and there is also discussion around the open education resources initiative.
- There are some changes in the works with travel. System will be transitioning from the current service provider to 3 separate providers. There will be one provider for faculty/staff travel, one for group travel (10 people or more), and one for athletic-related travel.
- Rob's term will be expiring this spring, so the senate will need to find a new system representative. This person will serve on a 2-year term. Typically there are six scheduled meetings with UW system, and UWS typically attends three of them online and three of them in person.

Subcommittee Updates

- Communications Committee
 - Election results are in, and our new senators starting in the 2020-2021 term are Jon Dyess, Wanda Grew-Jasken, and Stephanie Peterson. They will be invited to sit in on the May senate meeting.
 - For future communications/elections, we should look at cleaning up the academic staff list to make sure everyone is included on the listserv and no one is missed.
 - We will not be doing a spring newsletter.
- Professional Development Committee
 - The committee is waiting to see what the budget will look like next year before we send out the call for grant proposals. Without knowing when people will be able to travel again, it's not worth putting the call out until we have more information. Since new grants cannot be used until July 1st anyway, there is still some time before the call would need to be sent out. The committee is also looking to see if the academic staff's spring conference budget can be carried over into next year for those who were not able to use their grant aid this spring due to COVID.
- Personnel Committee
 - July 1 is the last day for Academic Staff to submit promotion/title change applications.

Old Business

- Election results
- Promotion and Title Change extended

New Business

- Staff Performance Evaluation Form/Merit Re-evaluation

- The senate will be looking to review the performance evaluation forms and make changes once the new senate members are on board. In the meantime, the senate will gather the previous information that was collected, including the survey data, to give us a starting point on the project.
- The newly elected senators will be invited to the meeting in May. At that time, we would like to elect the senate chair, UW System representative, and secretary for the upcoming 2020-2021 year.

Adjourned: 2:51pm (Rob/Angie)

Next Meeting: Monday, May 11, 2020; 2:00-3:50pm

Motions/Votes Passed: none

Notes submitted by Kristen