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Minutes

Faculty Senate

3-31-2020

March 31, 2020

Faculty Senate

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Recommended Citation

Faculty Senate, "March 31, 2020" (2020). *Minutes*. 1135.

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Minutes from the Faculty Senate meeting held on 3/31/2020 Held Remotely

the minutes summarize the proceeding, and do not constitute a verbatim transcript

I. Call to Order

- Chair of Faculty Senate, C.C. Wharram, called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm
- Senators in attendance: Wharram, Holly, Barnard, Hugo, Stowell, Brantley, Gosse, White, Eckert, K. Shaw, VanGunten, Scher, Khamisani, Chahyadi, N. Shaw, Periyannan
- Guests: Jay Gattrell, Provost

II. Approval of Minutes.

- Motion (Eckert/White); unanimously approved.

III. Committee Reports

- Executive
 - Wharram: thanks to all that participated and supported student-led march against hate. We will have executive meeting next Monday.
 - Wharram's report from CUPB meeting: Budgets are filling in as anticipated, with the exceptions re. Covid-19 contingencies, as follows. Gov. Pritzker has asked universities neither to lay off employees, nor to discontinue paying student workers (incl. RAs, grad. assistants, extra-help workers). We are following that directive. College Work Study students will continue to be paid through fed \$ (about 42 students). EIU is calculating the refund for Housing & Dining. Will be around 20% of total, which puts it around \$4m. We may be able to recoup these funds through the congressional CARES Act passed last week, which may see \$4-5m come to EIU. We have ~140 students on campus, housed on floors maxed out by lowest # of facilities—usually showers: i.e., if there are 5 shower stalls on a floor, max 5 students on that floor. Each student has shower/sink earmarked for the individual. Considered a Rec Center refund, but will likely implement a credit for the next period. Right now, not contemplating a refund of various student fees (rec center, union, etc.), since these fees do pay for student wages still being paid out. Savings? Minimal. Spending less on athletics (trips) for Sp20. Partially offset by loss of NCAA March Madness funds. Concerns? The State of IL money for Higher Ed comes through gambling revenues and those are shut down. Unclear where funds will come from. IL Comptroller assures that payments will be made. VP McCann expressed his concerns. Clarification of April 7 date: Gov Pritzker declared State of Emergency on March 9. S of E valid for only 30, after which time, it can be extended for another 30 days. That is, don't expect (though it's still possible) to hear that the S of E is extended until April 7. But it will be (CCW's editorial comment). We have no clarity at all regarding next year's budget, and no indication of when we will.
 - Wharram: Governor's state of emergency expires 4/7; by law, he cannot extend this until it expires.
 - Stowell: Faculty Senate has a new-look website
- Elections and Nominations
 - Stowell: we have elections results. Note that positions that no one ran for need at least 10 write-ins to have winner, so those remain unfilled.
 - Stowell: motion to accept results. Motion (Scher/Gosse); unanimously approved.
 - Stowell: suggest we wait until fall, given disruptions, to recruit for nominated committees
 - Hugo: should wait. We'd get so few now

- Gosse: agree. Easier to recruit in fall.
- Student Senate
 - Khamisani: met last Wednesday (remotely). Discussed need to reschedule/reorganize spring activities, senate-meeting timeline, and elections in light of situation.
- Student and Staff Relations
 - VanGunten's report: we met on 3/11. The committee discussed the need to change how senate seats are allotted across areas and departments given the previous layoffs and the conversion of some A&P positions into staff positions. It will require a change to their constitution. A timeline for making these changes was discussed. VP McCann discussed with the committee the status of future science building as well as other budget issues.
- Awards Committee
 - N. Hugo: Dr. Rebecca Tadlock-Marlo (Counseling and Higher Education) selected for the 2020 Distinguished Faculty Award. Motion to approve. Motion (Brantley/Barnard); unanimously approved.
- Faculty Forum
 - White: social distancing. No FF planned for remainder of semester.
- Budget Transparency
 - Barnard: The committee has requested data regarding revenue trends for online programs and online courses. Specifically, we are interested in revenue trends over 5 years from online degree programs & delivery of online classes, as well as a comparison with traditionally delivered classes, and dual credit classes. Obviously, we understand that there are other priority considerations at this time.

IV. Business

- Provost's Report
 - Gatrell: Want to thank FS for leadership and messaging for rally against hate. Couple hundred supporters attended. (Covid-19 virus situation): students now attending classes remotely. Thanks to faculty for flexibility and creativity, and IT, Newton Key (faculty development and innovation) for helping with transition. On weekly/end phone calls with IBHE, other Provosts, for guidance. There was a special board meeting to approve refunds for student housing. 140 students have returned to campus: mostly students with special needs (technology, family situations, etc.).
 - Scher: what can we do to support off-campus students with leases?
 - Gatrell: difficult since third-party providers, but student workers (with jobs) and work-study students will be supported.
 - Gatrell: credit/no credit memo shared. Adopted post-hoc approach. Prefer students work toward letter grade. Discussing implications of governance with UPC: problem is that UPC needs physical documents. This might cause some delays, but (reviews) will get done.
 - K. Shaw: what about graduate students?
 - Gatrell: no one has to return to campus. No students will lose benefits.
 - Scher: (again) Hope that we can advocate for students (RE: landlords/leases)
 - Gatrell: legal services are available for students
 - Periyannan: we made promises to graduate students about assistance in summer
 - Gatrell: every commitment will be honored
 - Gosse: are we taking a hit on student recruitment?
 - Gatrell: we've had virtual meetings and an open house. Every institution is facing this. We are where we were last year (in terms of recruiting). We are concerned about financial impact of this on students.

- Gosse: student-nurses facing challenges: new training, new assignments, lots of disruption. Flexibility in grade-due dates?
 - Gatrell: title 4 implications (of extending), could do incompletes.
 - Periyannan: counseling/mental health resources available for students?
 - Gatrell: counseling open. Mostly remote. Working on this (new to us).
- Potential Resolutions to conclude the year
 - Wharram: want to work on resolutions to commend our interim VPs (VPBA, VPSA) for hard work over the last few years. Could use help drafting these resolutions.
- Other Business?
 - Holly: The Think Tank was planning on meeting soon to prepare for our FS presentation on test optional option for admission, which was to be held on 4/28. Now reconsidering in light of changing situation and new data (universities may not have test scores to use for admission). Possible summer or fall presentation instead.
 - Periyannan (to Gatrell): how can we engage with the community (to help)?
 - Gatrell: we're looking into ways to partner with Sarah Bush and met with mayor.
 - Stowell: progress with the nursing program?
 - Gatrell: program approved by Higher Learning Commission. One site-visit away from approval.
 - K. Shaw (to Khamisani): how are students doing?
 - Khamisani: some students mentioning stress. We are thinking of ways to engage students remotely. Virtual events.
 - Wharram (to Holly): update on VPSA search?
 - Holly: we had to reschedule some candidates, but the search is continuing. Four candidates coming to campus in April. Social distancing measures in place: small meetings in large rooms, deep cleaning, remote open sessions...

V. Adjournment

- Adjourned at 3:15 PM.

Submitted by Senate faculty recorder, D. Holly