

Faculty Senate Meeting

Minutes

April 3, 2020

1:00pm–2:00pm

Attendees: Dr. Emily Cutrer, Dr. David Yells, Dr. Del Doughty, Dr. Gary Stading, Kathy Williams, Dr. David Allard, Dr. Drew Morton, Dr. Craig Nakashian, Dr. Ben Neuman, Dr. Abbie Strunc, Dr. Wai Yuen Chan, Dr. Joan Brumm, Dr. Angie Sikorski, Dr. Brian Matthews, Dr. Doug Julien, Dr. Mohamed Morsy, Jill Whittington, Dr. Tom Jordan.

I. Call to order

II. President’s Report Dr. Emily Cutrer

1. Dr. Cutrer expresses gratitude for how everyone has adapted to the situation at hand.
2. Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading – be sure to talk to Mike Fuller about Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grading for any course in which students are enrolled in the spring semester 2020 and financial aid implications. Dr. Cutrer asks how we will let the students know. Dr. Yells said he would like to send a message out to students that S/U will be an option and to do so even if we do not have the actual process in place. Add in the communication about graduate school or undergrad and speaking to advisors. Financial Aid and Advisors are creating a checklist to help students make a wise decision.
3. COVID 19 Group – Meets Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, for updates from various parts of the university. Today in their meeting they talked about summer school. June 1st sessions will be online, one reason is because students will start registering on April 13th. Another reason is looking at the curve. Communication will come out today. Dr. Julien asks about Young Writers or the like, how he should advise those in charge. Dr. Cutrer responds that she will get back to him on that. The second summer session is undetermined. Dr. Cutrer said she meets with the SGA leadership and they are excited to get back to campus. Summer classes may go online, it does not mean that staff do not go back to campus.
4. With SAT/ACT being unavailable to future student – Chancellor Sharp has given the Presidents the authority to wave the ACT/SAT to let students admit. Dr. Cutrer met with Kathy Williams and Toney Favors yesterday. The decision is for students who have not turned in ACT/SAT to have a 2.75 GPA to be admitted and for students who fall below it to have a committee meet together to make a decision on them individually. Dr. Cutrer to have the Academic Standards committee to review the 74 current applicants. Dr. Drew Morton said he will reach out to his committee to do so.
5. Dr. Cutrer asks senate to let her know if there is anything the administration needs to address during this time.

III. VPAA Report Dr. David Yells

1. Thankfulness for how everyone has handled this transition. He encourages faculty to participate in Julia Allen’s webinars/trainings.
2. The deadline for the student to make the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grading for any course in which they are enrolled in the spring semester 2020 request is May 6th.

IV. COVID Update Jill Whittington

1. She is on state calls and the current confirmed cases in surrounding counties are: Miller 7 cases; Cass 4; Bowie 14. Miller County is having drive-thru testing services starting Monday.
2. AgriLife in College Station went through their facilities and assembled several thousand test kits that they are sharing with each campus, when we receive ours we will distribute them to the local hospitals.
3. System Vehicles are also being used to transmit PPE to local facilities.
4. We have ensured the UPD are properly staffed with PPE, only to serve if needed before an ambulance can get on site.
5. If and when we have a positive diagnosis in our campus community, it counts as a Clery communication.

V. Approval of Minutes (March 6, 2020) Dr. David Allard

Unanimous approval.

VI. Consent Agenda Items

1. Pass Fail Grades Dr. Craig Nakashian

Dr. Nakshian to update: "For undergraduate students, a "S" will correspond to an average of 70 or above; for graduate students, a "S" will correspond to an average of 80 or above. Additionally, S/U grades incurred during the Spring 2020 semester will not count against a student's maximum number of S/U courses allowed."

2. Student Evaluations Dr. Craig Nakashian
3. Tenure Clock Dr. Craig Nakashian

VII. Committee Reports and Business Items

- a) Curriculum Committee
- b) Education Technology – still reviewing LMS possibilities (Canvas, Brightspace). Created a TEAMS group and the Senate has been added to it as well. The demos can be viewed there. This month they will hear from Blackboard Ultra.
- c) Academic Standards
- d) Academic Rules and Procedures – meeting next Monday to discuss post tenure review process.
- e) FRED – 6 proposals reviewed; details will be sent for approval. Dr. Luz Mary Rincon – \$1,832, student conference – not funding at this time. Dr. Greg Hogan - \$400 for expenses; not to fund the \$2,600 because we already have the equipment. Dr. Chen - \$3,000 for video games for a study with autistic kids, subject funding due to completion of IRB. Dr. Sikorski – yoga study project was missing the full proposal so not

approved at this time. Dr. Jialeng Huang- \$3,000 collecting samples for a study is approved. Dr. Frank Mullins – no for now because it's for a conference. \$8,232 total will be funded.

- f) Faculty Status
- g) Budget Committee – different members are still working on their part.
- h) Next Meeting: May 1, 2020