

# **Faculty Senate**

## **Minutes**

May 1, 2020

1:00pm–2:30pm

**Attendees:** Dr. Emily Cutrer, Dr. David Yells, 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. Rebeca Cooper, Dr. Michael Perri, Dr. Mohamed Morsy, Jill Whittington.

### I. President's Report ..... Dr. Emily Cutrer

1. The system is asking the campuses to only bring back staff who are close to essential and do not have underlying health problems by May 18<sup>th</sup>. To look toward really reopening on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Still to access campus, you must have permission of your VP and the UPD will let you in. When it changes, you will be notified. Waiting on a directive from the system.
2. The system announced it is planning to go back to campus and face to face instruction in the Fall. We also hope to do the same but will not know until later in the Summer. If we go back face to face, everyone will have a test and we will have a good tracking system as well. Our students will even have the opportunity to learn how to track cases. Fall – testing, tracking, social distancing, will need to be determined. A group at the system level is working on this. A decision has been made that all of Summer school classes will be delivered online. Orientation will be online. Commencement will take place on August 15 but subject to change. We may have 2 – 3 commencement ceremonies to divide people appropriately to practice safe social distancing.
3. East Texas Giving Day – we came in at over \$95,000 that will go to students' scholarships. There were 189 different non-profits listed and we came in 2<sup>nd</sup>.
4. Dr. Julien – suggesting the course schedule indicate where classes might be flexible enough where assignments can be adjusted or accommodations can be made for those who cannot come to class due to health concerns related to COVID. Dr. Cutrer says it is something that does need to be addressed.

### II. VPAA Report ..... Dr. David Yells

1. On top of the emergency money we have set aside, we have received money through the CARES Program to help students. We are applying for another program through THECB. A second grant from THECB will also help.

2. We will be providing some opportunity for people to get back on campus to prepare for Summer courses. More to come.
3. Dr. Allard - Part of a grant from the system for the ACUE (Association of College and University Educators) Program. We are in a cohort with A&M International. We will have 10 faculty that can participate in this and they will have 10. A course in the fall and the spring. Information, nominations, and applications will be coming forth soon.

III. COVID-19 Update..... Jill Whittington

1. The State of Texas posted today's COVID-19 diagnostic rate – 1,142 new cases today in Texas. Bowie County has a total of 99 known cases. Dr. Neuman – are we part of the governors plans to track known cases? Yes, we will receive funds to do so and there is an app coming soon to help with this.

Classrooms have been measured to make considerations for social distancing in the Fall. Jill asks for any ideas or questions to her as the plans get built.

Dr. Neuman – do we have enough masks and will we require them when we return? Jill said the system is discussing this, but nothing has been determined at this point. We have received a shipment of a few thousand masks of yesterday. We will set up sanitizer stations. Dr. Cutrer said we can require people to wear masks. The big question is finding the money to pay for them if we have to supply them. W.Y. asks if we need to measure the temperature of someone prior to them entering. Dr. Neuman said it is not a good diagnostic for this virus because not everyone gets a fever.

IV. Approval of Minutes ..... Dr. David Allard

Motion: Dr. Ben Neuman, Second: Dr. Brian Matthews, Minutes passed unanimously.

V. President of Faculty Senate Report..... Dr. David Allard

No new updates.

VI. Consent Agenda Items

- a) Renewal of Ad-Interim Positions (Academic Rules and Procedures)

Passed by unanimous vote.

VII. Committee Reports and Business Items

- a) Curriculum Committee - no report given.

- b) Education Technology – had all the webinars with the possible vendors. Brightspace, Canvas, Blackboard Ultra.
- c) Academic Standards – no report given.
- d) Academic Rules and Procedures – finished revising and finalizing the workload document.
- e) FRED – wait and see who the next chair is and then they will determine what to do with the remaining FRED monies. All proposals are approved.
- f) Faculty Status – no report given.
- g) Budget Committee - still working on individual parts and Dr. Joan Brumm is compiling.

#### VIII. New Business

- a) A change to the catalog for incomplete grades. Currently if you fail to submit whatever missing assignment you have an INC for, you fail the class (regardless of your grade in the course to that point). We propose to change the policy so that you only receive zeros on the missing assignments. It would read:

***If you do not complete the required coursework by the end of the specified incomplete period, you will be given zeros on the missing assignments.*** (Dr. Nakashian)

Motion: Dr. Craig Nakashian; Second: Dr. Abbie Strunc 13 approve. And they will change the form as well.

- b) Full pay provided for summer courses that make with 5 graduate students / 10 undergraduates. Remuneration for classes that run with fewer students is at the Dean's discretion.

Motion: Dr. Angie Sikorski, Second: Dr. Joan Brumm, Passed by unanimous vote.

#### IX. Transition to 2020-2021 Senate

- a) Departing Senators recognized  
CASE – Dr. Ben Neuman & Dr. Jan Murdoch
- b) Vice President succeeds to President
- c) New Senators recognized – 2019 Election Results  
CASE – Dr. Rebeca Cooper & Dr. Michael Perri

d) Elect Vice President & Secretary

Dr. Angie Sikorski – Vice President

Dr. Brian Matthews - Secretary

e) Elect new Committee Chairs

FRED – Dr. Abbie Strunc (6), Dr. Mohammed Morsy (3)

(Addendum – Dr. Morsy is the FRED chair, Dr. Strunc stepped down 5/6/2020.)

Faculty Status – Dr. Drew Morton

Next Meeting: TBD