

Faculty Senate Executive Committee with President Rita Cheng and Provost Diane Stearns
March, 25, 2020
Meeting Notes

Those present: Gioia Woods, Ed Smaglik, Cathryn Ellis, Dorothy J. Dunn, Blase S. Scarnati Jr, Bruce Fox, Marianne Nielsen, Tammy Mielke, Rick Stamer, Danielle Ross, Jessie Finch, Grace Okoli, Jeannie L. Copley, Roger Bounds, President Rita Cheng, Provost Diane Stearns, Nora D. Dunbar, Krista Allen, Jaime Yazzie

Commencement Update—Krista Allen

- We are working on a virtual commencement ceremony to take place in May 2020. This will allow us to have virtual speeches and ability for students to upload a photo. This will be a visual product customized with their photo, Latin honors, college, etc.
 - Working on a graduation care package to mail that will include commemorative items including a program, license plate, etc.
 - While several of those facilities to produce those items are closed, we are confident we can get this out by May
- We are also creating an additional ceremony for May 2020 graduates on Saturday, December 12. This depends on how many students will come back to walk. Working with ASNAU.
- Q: Any feedback from our students on December commencement?
 - Graduates felt that not many would participate except for Ph.D. students to be hooded.
 - Undergraduate felt that there would be many people returning.
- Q: Are you going to create a montage of well wishes from faculty?
 - We are continuing to think of how to include them
- Q: On the virtual platform, how can we recognize first generation students?
 - We could consider self-identifying/additional recognitions
- This accommodates online students (out of state and international students and families)
- The vendors will take full refunds on graduation regalia for students and faculty
- Please send any questions and concerns to Krista Allen

Faculty Senate President Update—Gioia Woods

- FS has set up a discussion forum: *Faculty Matters!* <https://j.mp/faculty-senate>
- Thanks to Stephanie McCarthy at e-learning for help support
- Goal is to monitor it and reach out to the appropriate expert/unit for answers
- Diane Stearns and Roger Bound have access as instructors.

Campus Update—President Rita Cheng

- Collecting data from campus communities and local housing providers (The Grove, etc.) to get a sense of occupancy of students. About 1300 students in on-campus housing now
- NAU campus served 3000 meals on 3-31-2020 based on CDC guidelines on how to clean and serve
- Our campus health is open to provide services including mental health
 - They are doing testing but they are not busy
- We are collecting PPE supplies and having them inventoried

- Bought using State funds
- Identifying various needs for gloves and masks
 - These could be used across campus and available should the community need them
- Held a call with the Navajo Nation to work on Broadband issues
 - If students are on the nation and not violating the Shelter-In Place
 - Provide list where broadband is available, working with chapter houses and schools to move to windows so students have parking lot capabilities
 - Getting permission from Fort Defiance for nursing students and move Wi-Fi spots for easier access.
 - NAU campus is also addressing moving Wi-Fi to parking lots—P16, for example
- Stimulus Package for Arizona
 - \$15 million, \$12 billion to higher ED will be distributed FTE

Discussion

- Can you say a little bit more about the stimulus package?
 - This is still in the early stages. As people analyze and receive the bill then we will know more.
 - The package includes \$7 billion going directly to students to offset their cost and \$30 billion going to governors to help all of education (mostly K-12 in Arizona)
- I have had students asking what the thoughts are for next fall
 - At this point, NAU has not made any decisions regarding fall. The decision will take into account how the switch to online courses goes for spring and how the COVID-19 situation plays out.
- Are you seeing any impact on enrollment for the fall?
 - NAU enrollment is down from this time last year, University has moved back deadline for responses and deposits
- Are we looking into student extensions of work or subscriptions?
 - Learning outcomes will be critical and difficult. These are going to be Faculty's best judgement
- Can we extend the deadline for pass/fail?
 - We are working on this and what courses would be allowed to change to P/F
 - We realize this is urgent and we will have a draft policy soon for FSEC to comment on.
- Tenure clock and delaying the tenure clock
 - Provost is monitoring the national situation and will consider all options (opportunity to delay the tenure clock)
- A question: someone asked if we are faced with a shelter in place in Arizona
 - Governor Ducey designated universities as "essential services." NAU has students that are international, out of state, and have housing insecurity. Students will be allowed to stay on campus and will be supported.
- How should faculty proceed if they contract COVID-19?
 - We are planning for worst case scenarios as departments, colleges, faculty and staff. Faculty should have a "chain of command" in place with colleagues in their units to help cover classes.