

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes October 12, 2020

Call to Order: 3:02 pm

Acceptance of Agenda: Approved

Acceptance of August 17 and September 14, 2020 Minutes: Approved

- **Those present (electronically):** Gioia Woods, Karen Renner, Jessie K. Finch, Marianne Nielsen, Paul Lenze, Tammy L. Mielke, Provost Diane Stearns, Bruce Fox, Alexandra Carpino, Ira Allen, Rick Stamer, Wilbert Odem, Kate Ellis, and Grace Okoli.
- **Those also present:** Astrid Klocke, John Georgas, Laurie Dickson, Erin Grisham, Gayla Stoner, Melinda Treml, and Jeff Berglund

Faculty Senate President's Report—Gioia Woods

FS President provided an update on COFS revisions, ABOR, Food Insecurity task force, and presented on

- COFS revisions on equity and access, Title IX, faculty grievance are being drafted for review. These are updates and specifications to the language around the process (i.e. requiring all units to have clear requirements for promotion and tenure).
- NAU Student Regent selection begins. There are two student regents; the three universities rotate that seat. Eric Yordy will represent the faculty on this committee.
- The Food Insecurity task force is gathering food and working with the Flagstaff Family Food Bank to support students on campus.
- The Travel Advisory group advises the Center for International Education is looking into how and under what conditions we can send students abroad. ~100 students going abroad in the spring (16 countries).
- The October 5 All Faculty Meeting was a great success with over 200 faculty from various colleges in attendance. Regents expressed gratitude.
- Two dean searches for CHHS and SBS are postponed.

FS President asked John Georgas to provide an overview of the average enrollment and caps for the fall semester, following up from President Cheng's report on Oct. 5. The numbers reported may not reflect all lived experiences.

- All classes report out of enterprise reporting. There are filters applied evenly including eliminating duplicate section identifiers.
- Questions: *Have you also looked at differences in graduate enrollments?* Big cap increases in select places. 80% of courses are still below 18. Compared to 2019, the averages only when up a little from 16.68 to 19.72 in CAL. *What's the point of all these numbers, what are you trying to get from these numbers, it seems like enrollment has not taken as big a dip as were predicted. How will these numbers be used?* One conclusion to draw, we haven't seen an overall uptick. We need to talk about how the forces of declined enrollment, number of non-renewals, and how they have interplayed and impacted faculty. Courses aimed at non-majors is where John Georgas sees the biggest increase in course caps. *What are the numbers for the Provost Office?* There are particular programs that fall under the Provost's office: AF/MS prefix, Honors, ROTC, CIE, NAU FYS/FYE, a lot of

statewide and Yuma prefixes. These are categorized under that division rather than a college. *The data and information on non-renewals could give us insight into the differences in enrollments of classes in colleges. How non-renewals correspond to the caps and how those numbers impact?* It's not that simple. (see below)

NAU's Provost's Report—Diane Stearns:

Provost Stearns provided expanded on the last question, dean searches, and policies.

- Enrollment and Caps: It is a question of what are our resources, and how do we use them. For the fiscal 2020 budget, academic affairs was 62% of the state budget. TRIF and MNA are 37% of the total budget in Fiscal 2020. Most is salary. Looking at all those variables, how are we using our resources. We are looking at course caps: what is a proper course cap and why? What are the highest course caps that are reasonable? The Provost welcomes the Faculty Senate's perspective on what caps should be.
- Looking at the spring calendar, we are taking tentative steps on start dates, ending early, the impact on student financial aid and how enrollment, the budget and student demographic will play out.
- Dean's searches are on pause. NAU's new president should be part of the hiring.
- Provost Office has a working group looking at the foreign influence and federal regulations coming forward with online education. For example, Chinese students are not exposed to objectionable content. We are trying to figure out how do we properly meet all the regulatory requirements.
- Provost Office is looking into redoing Enterprise-wide metrics and online metrics to answer how we measure success with our online programs.
- In Coconino County, there are 887 active cases in the entire county, 3% of the total population, also 3% in Maricopa County.
- Questions: *Do we know when we'll know about spring?* Hoping to update this week. *Maybe all virtual classes after spring break?* There are issues with going all virtual. *What kinds of complaints is the office receiving?* Students complaining about how the remote is offered, faculty engagement, it's a mixture of not working, failing, not happy. The process starts with John Georgas, then goes to Dean and Chair to find out what's happening. The office works to help faculty do something that is a little different but makes a big difference for the student. Faculty member may be doing things in a way that worked well pre-pandemic but does not work well in this context, what can we change so they do work? *Support for FYLI program classes?* We are looking to equity-minded practices, seeing differences in outcomes between the demographics of class success. We need to know that FYLI is doing what it is intended to do. *Could you update us on recruitment for the spring, particularly those that are currently unemployed?* Numbers aren't coming the way they would in other downturns. Much of what we do is skilling for jobs, perhaps we should be looking at providing meaning, it is a strength we have. *FS was told the Provost Office will have data about nonrenewal with a Nov 1 deadline; can those be presented at the Nov 9 or Nov 16 full faculty meeting?* We are discussing what is appropriate to share. **Part of the senate's**

purview is personnel. *Fall semester contracts, will they be renewed for spring?*
That is ongoing.

- *Comment: The changes in schedules have affected faculty, taking away from research time. We need to find a way to ensure faculty are going to maintain research and scholarship.*

Liberal Studies Update—Jeff Berglund and Melinda Trembl

Jeff Berglund provided an update on the Oct 7 LS Proposal and upcoming forums. There was a minor significant change that separated the name for the program from the structure for the program. This came from one of the many discussions held campus wide.

- The task force has worked on the proposal, held discussions for feedback and debate. The questions raised criticism, and ideas raised will go into developing the best proposal possible. While we need to meet our expectations, we must heavily consider ABOR expectations. The proposal was developed with the task force and curriculum committee. We expect to finalize in the spring.
- Key Proposed Program Changes:
 - The foundations for quantitative reasoning will only change in name. In terms of Knowledge Area, external reviewers provided changes of cultural understanding to address American institutions, social systems, and address specific knowledge areas as well as overlapping with Diversity.
 - From the Diversity Committee, there was interest to expand from US ethnic and global diversity. We worked on a new requirement to include intersectionality: “dimensions of difference.” It is about different gender, socio-economic, race, etc. intersecting with identity, oppression and privilege. Look at the description in the course area.
 - Science focused on lab (almost constrained to a lab environment). We expanded defining what a lab was meant to provide, scientific method, experience of doing science, and provide more opportunity to do science. Science literacy and Doing Science is in the natural science and hoping engagement from social/behavioral sciences.
 - United States and international social systems looks at engagement in communities with potential overlap with diversity.
 - Ethics requirement is a new requirement. It is situated similarly to the writing requirement as content driven. Many programs already have an ethics outcome. The degree program would identify their outcome in ethics and how they want to address ethics.
- Overall, the transfer of courses would remain the same. Program would fulfill elements of AJAC, when they look at what equivalency would be best.
- *Questions: Would it be useful to identify a couple of areas to better support University re-envisioning and have some resource requirements? Could critical thinking and information literacy be built in a segment for future proofing and addresses the changing world/climate catastrophe?* The first year seminar could provide flexibility. Perhaps we should be thinking about a course where there are these issues and align with a knowledge area. The data literacy skill is something we want to include and capitalize on this.

Student Affairs Update—Erin Grisham

- Erin Grisham provided an update on the campus health services for NAU students. Counseling services are up 16% in overall visits. No waitlist for counseling services. Campus Health Services have been expanded to statewide students. Overall, 1,700 telehealth, 817 this fall, 5800 in person since May. Contact tracing team almost fully staffed. Campus Health provides COVID-19 rapid testing and offering flu shot clinics.
- There is support for students that are in isolation and quarantine who are on-/off-campus.
- There are large and small-scale activities including mentoring, social engagement, tutoring, etc.
- Louie's Cupboard is going strong and capable of distributing perishables.

New Business and Adjourn

Moved to adjourn 5:11pm.