

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes September 14, 2020

Call to Order: 3:01 pm

Acceptance of Agenda: Approved

- **Those present (electronically):** Gioia Woods, Tammy Mielke, Kate Ellis, Paul Lenze, President Rita Cheng, Diane Stearns, Karen Renner, Marianne Nielson, Alexandra Carpino, Ed Smaglik, Jessie K. Finch, Grace Okoli, Bruce Fox, Wilbert Odem, Rick Stamer, and Jaime Yazzie.
- **Those also present:**, Astrid Klocke, John Georgas, Laurie Dickson, Gayla Stoner, Mark Ruppert, Jeff Berglund, Roger Bounds.

Faculty Senate President's Report—Gioia Woods

FS President provided an update on NAU Re-imagining forum, meeting with the Food Insecurity task force, and an upcoming forum.

- The Food Insecurity task force started a partnership with Flagstaff Family Food Center, picking up boxes from the food center to bring back to campus to supplement Louie's distribution. They have a van and can do deliveries to students who cannot come to the food pickup. Food insecurity has gotten far worse due to attendance issues around the pandemic. With approval from FSEC, FS president would like to sponsor a Senate food drive at the Union.
- 138 people attended the co-sponsored forum, NAU Re-imagining. FS extends appreciation to Laurie, Provost Stearns and the rest of the Provosts office for co-sponsorship and participation. The Provost Office will hold off on the re-imagining process this year. The curricular process will continue.
- Meeting with Provost on Friday centered on using partnerships and forums to pivot to shape the university in the future and share our vision for NAU. Chair Penley has sent announcement to senators inviting university stakeholders.
- FSEC will host this semesters all faculty forum on September 28, in line with constitution, to begin discussions on our vision for the future.

FSEC provided a report on each of their classes.

- More and more students are choosing and requesting to attend classes remotely. A student wanted to talk in person with faculty about the fact that a roommate had tested positive. There is still a lack of communication and information.
- FSEC member had to be moved out of a classroom due to issues with technology. It is disappointing that classrooms do not have the technology that was advertised, specifically a room in Riles only has one monitor. Faculty brings in personal laptop. As we move forward and remote attendance will be part of the practice, we need to equip the rooms properly (two monitors, dry erase board capabilities, etc.). Currently we're getting through, but we need to shoot for better. We may need to ask time with Steve Burrell and Gayla Stoner for future FSEC meeting.
- Faculty teaching in SBS west with the class broken into 17/18 students each day. For the last two week, only 5-6 students show up in person. Most have commented that they don't feel safe coming in person. As for the larger classes that are online only, faculty have seen nearly perfect attendance. They are taking advantage and making due with the situation as it is. Students are relatively able to engage.

- Faculty with in-person class (mandatory) is starting to have students who can't make it to class. The class was divided into two days. This will be an ongoing issue as the semester progresses. Overall, attendance is going well. Students are completing assignments on time.
- Freshman level classes are doing well with NAU flex, but upper division classes are more of an issue. How do we ensure that zoom is being used properly—not as an accommodation because they don't feel like coming to class.

President's Report—President Rita Cheng:

President Cheng provided updates on the NAU budget, enrollment, and changes in administration.

- NAU budget approved at Regents meeting on Thursday, submitted a balanced budget 80 million less. We asked for a supplemental for one time funding back (~\$7 million), additional support for the lack of revenue for international and out of state students, and the 75% capacity of resident students. We are also going back for 2022 with the same request before the pandemic to help NAU expand healthcare programs and support statewide programs.
- NAU has staff changes, Dean of Students and Vice President of Development and Alumni Engagement, We'll be asking the registry for an experienced Dean of Students. Bonnie Baker will be interim VP of Development and Alumni Engagement. We will be using the same search firm that hired Ricky McCurry.
- We are looking at data sharing agreements with Coconino County to provide information about what is happening in the community and students who live in the community. It is undergoing HIPA review.
- Over 6000 tests to date, the surge testing was 3000+ test. Since then, over 2,700 saliva testing in a week and a half. We are cross dating the results with student data. NAU website will be updated to consolidate COVID-19 resources and information.
- Questions: On behalf of the FSEC, we thank President Cheng for your tireless service to this institution and students. *When will the budget ask be made?* There are deadlines. Our specific component was due this afternoon. *Did NAU apply for CARES act funding?* We received \$23 million split into \$11.5 million for the institution and \$11.5 million distributed to students. *Could you explain the external search firm?* Yes, it is Aspen. *What else to expect beyond contact tracing with the partnership with the County?* If students are tested at the health service, we know if they have tested positive as this information is shared with the Dean of Students. If students are tested anywhere else, the county receives the information but not the university. In this case, NAU relies on self-reporting. With this data agreement, we can help the County with our students who may not be responsive to the County and assist with contact tracing. *A situation came up in class with a student and roommates, when we hear something like this, are we required to report it, if so, to whom?* The first option: faculty could call the Dean of Students office. They would take the steps necessary to find out what is going on. *Could you confirm if the police chief is leaving?* Kelly Smith is going back to Florida. *What is the plan for her replacement?* Missy is going to take on an interim. *Have there been any more incidents that have resulted interim suspensions?* We had one over Labor Day. *How many students are in isolation dorms?* Actively managing 96, cases, most off campus and 1/3 of those in isolation in residence. *How does registry work with faculty input?* The

registry will bring a few candidates to campus. The candidates meet with the President and administration. Normally, the registry will conduct open forums to see who the best fit is.

Provost's Report—Diane Stearns:

Provost Stearns provided a report on new program ideas, the search for the NAU President, and spring semester

- There are Deans bringing forward new program ideas forward. ABOR will be taking the lead on the search for the NAU President and we will continue to follow their lead.
- At the last ABOR meeting, Gayla Stoner and her counterparts opened discussion of measuring success of online programs and adding to the ABOR metrics. They have recognized that online is important for all universities in how to measure and report on success.
- Spring Semester: NAU is in the process of enrolling for Spring. CAL state system will continue what they have done in the fall. NAU will do the same and continue the same range of offerings in the spring. The start date isn't necessarily under consideration, but we have to be flexible.
- Fall commencement will be remote.
- Questions: *Perspective relative to parents, what exactly don't they like? Parents don't want to pay for flex/remote. When is the spring withdraw deadline? Faculty have seen difference in performance because they can withdraw throughout the semester.* John Georgas will follow up.
- Comments: *When students moved back in the fall, students had to show a negative test. FSEC would like to see that again in the spring. Testing would provide security for the faculty and campus as a whole. Ohio State is going to skip spring break, an option to keep people close and safe.*

Liberal Studies Update—Jeff Berglund

Jeff Berglund began the report for the Liberal Studies Task Force finishing the proposal and upcoming presentation. Questions on how we are defining knowledge areas, skills and relationship to knowledge areas will be put forward.

- This week we are focusing on the Habits of Mind: curiosity, intellectual responsibility, persistence, self-awareness and keying these into elements that are related to linked to a holistic sense of wellbeing and civic engagement.
- The Diversity Curriculum committee has provided feedback on incorporating diversity requirements into the program.
- Task force is grappling with minor issues that relate to ethics, a skill set called time management and where these should live in the curriculum.
- Questions: *Ethics? It is a skill. FS president puts a plug in for the latter model with experts in ethics to teach broadly in colleges and disciplines. Look to the major and courses that are already in the program.* We recognize there are courses already present and will be hosting specific discussions so that faculty can talk about specific issues/questions. Have you worked with *Melissa Griffin?* Yes.

Reimagining Discussion—Laurie Dickson

The Provost sent out an email updating on delaying the deadlines. Faculty will continue to engage in the processes that they engage in i.e. academic program review, etc. Gayla Stoner reported that faculty have asked for work force and market analysis.

FS President also links the discussion to Chair Penley's invitation on NAU stakeholders to share and hear our vision. FSEC appreciate ABOR's invitation to all of us to think about the future of the university. It may appear disorganized from NAU stakeholder perspective, but we may not be aware of what is happening in ABOR's offices. The individual bodies and constitutions should put forward their opinions.

New Business and Adjourn

Moved to adjourn 4:22 pm.