

## Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes February 8, 2021

Call to Order: 3:02 pm

Acceptance of Agenda: Approved

Acceptance of January 4, 2021 Minutes: Approved

- **Those present (electronically):** Gioia Woods, Karen Renner, Jessie K. Finch, Tammy L. Mielke, Ed Smaglik, Provost Diane Stearns, Bruce Fox, Marianne Nielsen, Kate Ellis, Paul Lenze, Alexandra Carpino, Grace Okoli, Laura Bounds, and Jaime Yazzie
- **Those also present:** President Rita Cheng, John Georgas, Larry R. MacPhee, Laurie Dickson, Gayla Stoner, Jeff Berglund, Melinda Treml, Jason BeDuhn, Anika Olsen, Samantha Clifford, Don Carter, Steve Burrell, Betsy Buford, Don Carter, and Astrid Klocke
- **Those absent:** Rick Stamer, Ira Allen, and Wilbert Odem

### Faculty Senate President's Report—Gioia Woods

FS President provided an update on a call to audience from Arizona Faculty's Council. AFC is meeting Feb. 10 and 11 to correspond with ABOR meeting. There will be an online call to the audience. Form is available at ABOR website.

- Agenda for AFC is to scrutinize the general education policy. There will be a second reading. The board first voted on this Nov. 2020. When this becomes active, it will serve as a guide to the general education at all three universities. If you have anything at all that we would like to have communicated to the AFC, please contact Gioia Woods.

### NAU President's Report—President Rita Cheng

President Cheng provided a report on the Leadership Day, NSF ranking, vaccinations, and VP searches. Slides from leadership day are posted on the webpage.

- NAU's NSF ranking went up another 5 notches to 70 for public institutions without a medical school, 191 overall. During President Cheng's tenure, NAU has moved 53 points.
- Vaccine rollout has started with 2600 vaccinations administered. Encourage colleagues to get in line. We do not want our institution to be a burden to the county. We need to use our weekly allocations. NAU is now at 50,000 tests in the field house. NAU will continue to do testing throughout the spring semester.
- We completed two searches. The interim Vice President for research will start next Monday who will help us through our transition time. We also have a signed contract with a new VP for development. Announcement is forthcoming.
- Our biggest agenda item for the regents is the new economy initiative.
- Diversity fellows have been identified at the local/college level.

### NAU's Provost's Report—Diane Stearns

Provost Stearns provided an update on ABOR and Leadership Day.

- Provost is interested in hearing perspective on vaccinations.
- ABOR: Second reading of general education is scheduled. UA and NAU will be giving a brief update on changes to policy. Metrics have been put on hold. No new academic programs going through at this meeting.
- To summarize the leadership day, many leaders attended a day with ASCUE and EAB. EAB has reported on best practices in higher education. There was discussion of changing demographics,

pandemic, budget issues, generating revenue and/or contain costs. 200 faculty have external funding on this campus.

- Questions/Comments: *All universities are looking at portfolios, I think it is how the process happens, not that it happens. We need to do it cooperatively, we all do this together. Broad campus discussion needed. President Cheng reinforced that the examination of curriculum and portfolios is a campus wide process and respectful of local faculty governance issue. How is faculty efficiency is measured? We do not provide an answer, working with units to answer that question. We're at the conversation level to get a consensus. What about at a university level? It is something that can be looked at. There will be conversations and we're not dictating. What do institutions look at? Things like complexity of curriculum, caps, section numbers, there is no right or wrong number. Regarding reviewing academic portfolio, the Sociology department is going to be housing the BUS degree and perhaps SUS program. The process through which it happens was disturbing to faculty members. This is an example of how not move forward with program restructuring. Faculty reaching out to senate to say their voices were not being heard. Dean Masserini has been communicative with faculty, but faculty are not happy with the process. Provost will look into this. There has been some discussion among faculty of the university-wide advising landscape. The nationally recommended student to advisor ratio is 300-1. In SBS, advisors have 650-750-1. Advising is viewed as an entry-level position so there is a lot of turnover. It is time to invest in advisors to promote student success. Provost Office does look at advising ratios on an active tempo to make adjustments and proactively in response to enrollment variances. Advising loads are tricky. The numbers quoted on the message do not match the data sets. When we calculate advising loads, they look at enrolled students, might include admitted but not enrolled students. International students are counted more than domestics. There was discussion of trying to better retain advisors, any updates? A lot of progress was made on that last year. Improvements that were already in motion hit at the right time. There have been increases in salary in engineering team. We saw retention go up quite substantially. Is there discussion in improving the quality of what is coming out of gateway? As of now, there is no plan to redo that organization. How do you retain students if you don't have quality advisors? There is always room to improve. Student retention is a multifactor process, it isn't just about advising. We have come to the 21-day enrollment count. How are things looking? It closes today. We are pleased with retention for fall enrollment. Will hiring decisions be made based on these numbers? We are working through it with Deans and chairs.*

### **Liberal Studies—Jeff Berglund**

Jeff Berglund and Melinda Treml provided an update on the proposal. The committee will give a proposal of where to go in the next couple of months for final motions and votes of approval to move this on to the senate. Next week, both committees will have the last chance to look at the proposals.

- University-wide forums will be co-sponsored to provide a platform for everyone to weigh in on the proposals.
- Question: *Currently the liberal studies program requires 35 credit hours, it sounds like it will require a larger requirement. It may sound like that but we clock in approximately 35 hours. Does that mean there will be new work for the articulation task forces? Yes, they will need to have those conversations.*

### **Classroom update—Dan Okoli, Steve Burrell, Don Carter & teams**

Steve Burrell, Dan Okoli and Don Carter provided an update on classroom technology. The concerns fall into three categories: areas that need attention and can take care of, training/support, and general questions that don't pertain to IT. We opened tickets where we could.

- There have been requests to move classes due to technology in the room. If the technology in the room is not functioning, it needs to be fixed. If the technology is not sufficient to teach the class, then we need to figure out how to adjust.
- We have a standard annual plan for upgrading classrooms.
- HLC and Engineering classrooms are on the priority to be updated. SBS is always a concern. There are several rooms on the list there. We are looking at the current summer plan to see if it is misaligned with the list and if we need to reprioritize. The more we hear, the more specific what we hear, the better we can respond.
- Stephen Vedral provided an update on ventilation: Through the summer and fall, we replaced filters in every building, cleaned all restroom exhaust, confirmed everything was working, and adjusted the outside air intake in all mechanical systems. a few buildings don't have mechanical systems. Bilby has fresh air intake and all dampers are working. Everything has fresh air. Lab hoods are working.
- Questions: *Could we request portable filters for a class with no windows or no heat?* It is possible. We certainly need to know if you have no heat. *Could we get that in writing about the honors building that the ventilation is good?* Yes, we will get some facts on the building.

### **COVID-19 Impact Statement—Alexandra Carpino and Paul Lenze**

- Alexandra Carpino and Paul Lenze prepared the draft of the COVID-19 Impact Statement and presented on the outcomes. To create this draft, Alexandra and Paul went through all the different links and followed the advice from Provost's office relative to length. This proposed statement has 500 words. Since everyone across campus has had different experiences in response to COVID-9, this serves as a guide for folks as they develop their statement. It is a template for folks to get started. The draft outlines with two paragraphs and provides two options for the FSEC to vote on.
- Discussion: People's experience has varied considerably. *Provost Stearns and Astrid Klocke commented this is a great document. Provost encourages faculty to have their own voice, but also be careful about what is said. The statement will need to go through legal and EAO. This is not a demand, this is an opportunity.* Does the potential for a faculty member to think this protects them for lack of productivity need to be addressed? *We are not watering down our standards or expectations. This allows for modifications due to the impact of COVID-19.* The idea is this would supplement the self narrative. There was further discussion on support for Option A and Option B. Option A with legal vetting. Option B seems more generally protective and protects everyone.
- Draft with Option A and Option B will go to EAO for review.

### **New Business and Adjourn**

Moved to adjourn 5:05pm.