

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2020
Via Zoom
3:30---4:59 p.m.

Present: Beinlich, Crockett, Donohue, Roy Koepp (For Duarte) Duni, Guerra, Haney, Owens, Pollock, Kuhlmann, Shuler, Shepardson, Shaughnessy, Stanley, Stone, Waldo, Sweeten, Tian, Wall, Wallace.

Absent: Brust, Finley, Senn, Thompson, Zhang.

Student Representative: Tamia Smith

Administrators Present: Dr. Laurenz

Meeting called to order by Waldo, requested any new items to be added to the agenda. None added.

Administrators Report.

Dr. Laurenz indicated that registration for the fall is now open. He discussed the waiver of the Distance Education Learning Fee since many courses were put online due to COVID-19.

He reported that about 80 courses were converted from face to face to online. He indicated that there would be a designated communication flow in the fall in the halls.

He reports the university is working on capacity in some classrooms and buildings so as to ensure "social Distancing". The arrangement of the room will be a factor. New caps will be established on certain courses as we do not want to "overbook" classrooms.

Faculty will have access to their offices to prepare for the fall, thru deans and chairs. There will be daily health checks regarding symptoms, and masks, face coverings, shields will be required. The electronic screening form needs to be filled out daily by 9 AM when coming on campus. Check the instructions through your college regarding where the form needs to be sent.

It was clearly specified- that once a faculty member/staff step out of their car, that they would be expected to wear a mask or face shield. Once in their office, faculty can remove their face masks, but need to be sensitive to students and perhaps move to a larger area or room so that there is social distancing should a student wish to seek advising or assistance. There is no expectation, however, that faculty must meet with students in their office; office hours and advising can be conducted remotely.

A statement was sent out to be placed in syllabi regarding the responsibilities of students during these COVID-19 times. Students are expected to self-monitor and accept responsibility and adhere to expectations.

Students who may suspect that they have COVID-19 may first utilize tele-medicine and then report to La Casa for testing.

If a student has breathing or other difficulties that prevent wearing a face mask- they should report to the Office of Disabilities Services and accommodations and modifications would be made. This is to ensure compliance with ADA. Students will be encouraged to wash their hands, cover their mouths if they sneeze/cough and wear face masks etc.

Some questions arose about the location of the "quarantine" area for students. This would not be publicized, faculty with questions are referred to Dr. Long. There is no availability of quarantine accommodations for faculty or staff, or other community members.

La Casa will do testing at no cost to students.

It was suggested that the necessity for masks be reiterated in emails as well as online. Instructors in face to face classes set expectations for their students and classes and it was reiterated that the primary goal is to protect the safety, health and well-being of the students, faculty, staff etc.

It was noted that we are following executive orders from the Governor. Those who repeatedly fail to wear masks can be asked to leave the class- or to procure a mask and return to class and should problems continue, the Chair, Dean and VPAA should be contacted for repeated offenses as it later becomes a disciplinary matter.

A brief discussion of " presence on campus" continued. Concerns about "forced concentration" were addressed (students waiting outside of classrooms).

Some discussion arose about face to face versus online classes and some faculty remain concerned about teaching in a mode that they do not want to teach in. Point # 5 in Dr. Caldwell's Response to the Faculty Senate was referred to.

There were some questions about office hours, and the establishment of an ad hoc committee to provide input into the re-opening of campus. It was suggested that there be one representative from each college on an ad hoc committee or that some committee meet with Dr. Caldwell and/or Dr. Laurenz on a weekly, ongoing basis.

Motion made by Kuhlmann, seconded by Sweeten -1 opposed, no abstentions, Motion carried to establish a Campus Reopening ad hoc committee to bring concerns/questions from faculty via Faculty Senate and provide answers back to the Faculty Senate, to be distributed to faculty.

The committee will consist of Senators Duni (CLAS) Shepardson (Fine Arts) Stone (COB) and Wall (Education).

Some discussion followed regarding a "town hall" or forum for back to school information. A request will be made to Administration to hold a Q & A type virtual town hall during the return to campus meetings/orientation.

Information regarding hospitalization was provided. Roosevelt General Hospital will send any COVID-19 to Roswell (in state) first, than Lubbock if requested, (out of state)

Motion was made by Crockett, seconded by Haney to meet one more time on August 6th. None opposed, 2 abstentions (Koepp and Tian) Motion carried.

It was noted that the secretary would send to Cris Watson the Faculty Senate Resolution and Dr. Caldwell's response to be put on the Governance Faculty Senate webpage. These documents will be sent to Melissa Broz to distribute to all faculty

Some last questions revolved around returning students who may be coming back from out of state and international students. F.S. President Kuhlmann will ask about these two items, specifically, with Dr. Laurenz and follow-up with Faculty Senate.

Motion made by Beinlich, seconded by Wall to adjourn at 4:59P.m.

The Faculty Senate will meet again on August 6th, 2020 at 3:30 PM via ZOOM. This will be the last meeting of the 2019-2020 Faculty Senate.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:59. p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Michael F. Shaughnessy
Secretary
