

Faculty Senate Meeting, May 14, 2020

Meeting begins at 9:02am

Business Meeting

Approval of minutes: approved.

Update by Provost: A committee has been formed to consider the reopening of the University in the Fall of 2020. The goal is to have a plan by mid-July.

Dismissal by Provost – 2nd Reading: Review of the proposed revisions presented by John Smith. Concern was expressed about potential conflict between changes and requirements for some programs' accreditation. Concern expressed about this moving power away from faculty and to administrators. Smith suggests we postpone while changes are made so language does not conflict with accreditation requirements.

Motion to postpone to next meeting in order to make changes. Seconded. Postponed until September meeting.

Master of Public Health – 2nd Reading: Expressions of support for the program by a number of members.

Vote on proposal: proposal passes 26-3

Annual Reports (subcommittee written reports available on Senate website)

Task Force on Gender Violence

Academic Policies

Academic Programs & Planning

Administration and Finance: Question about spending on new sports facilities. Request for Committee to consider change in policy regarding University van usage (limiting age of drivers, distance to drive, etc.).

General Studies

Information Technology and Media Services

Library: Question about new policy for streaming videos in class.

Research and Professional Development: Question about possibility of changing policy related to timing for funding considering most faculty do the bulk of their research over the summer. Questions about loss of funding for projects following budget cuts related to coronavirus. Suggestion for change in policy so faculty can apply for two-year terms for funding rather than being limited to one year. Questions about whether funds that have been frozen will be renewed or whether faculty will need to reapply.

Student Affairs

Task Force on Faculty Visa: Yulong “Helen” Gu: The Task Force met several times, has met with administration, and been in communication with other New Jersey institutions. The administration is still in the process of amending the policy. We are asking for an extension of the Task Force.

Motion to extend the Task Force for another academic year.

No discussion.

Motion approved by unanimous consent.

Discussion and Information Items

Request for Bias-free Grading: Rosheka Faulkner, Student Senate VP (See presentation at Senate Website). Discussion about use of bias-free grading and suggestions for how to implement it.

Discussion from members related to other potential issues related to bias if we are teaching online in the fall semester.

Introduction and Welcoming of New Senators

Proposals for next year

1. Suggestion that we reconsider how service learning is done; changes that have made the process for incorporating service learning into courses more difficult; unelected committee that includes no faculty.
2. Concern about lack of centralized guidance related to what faculty should be doing related to internships in the context of the coronavirus.
3. Suggestion that we consider the increasingly burdensome changes related to hiring new faculty.

Farewell to Senators

Meeting adjourned at 11:30.