

MUW FACULTY SENATE

March 12, 2021

Zoom Meeting

Members in attendance: Elizabeth Chisolm, Hunter Manasco, Nichole Bonaventure-Larson, Libby Hawkins (Proxy for Kathy Newman), Melissa Hunter, Shonda Phelon, Dr. G.D. Heda, Jonathan Hooks, Chad Murphy, Adrian Sligh, Terry Todd, Youn Mi Lee, Nora Corrigan, Mary Helen Hawkins, Susan Hurley, Kristy Alpe

Also in attendance: President Nora Miller

1. Call to Order - President Chisolm called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.
2. Q&A Session with President Miller
 - a. President Miller gave an update about vaccines coming to campus via the health center. They are trying to get a count of how many they might need for employees. They are hoping to get the Johnson and Johnson for campus because they have a larger shelf life and we can handle that better. There was a form sent out in an announcement email where you can get signed up. Dr. Dobbs said that any university educator is also able to get the shot even though the language says K-12. There are several pharmacies around town that have them also.
 - b. The plans for commencement are being finalized for a virtual baccalaureate with the speeches, etc. Nursing will have theirs at the same time as the pinning ceremony on the Friday. Four commencements on Saturday with social distancing and ushers to seat people. Graduates will get 3 tickets each and those people will be seated in pods of 3 in the room. University will sanitize in between each ceremony. There will be no rehearsal but a video with instructions will come out. Caps and gowns are to own instead of rent this time around also.
 - c. Legislative update: Bill that's out right now has us at a 1.9% reduction, but she is optimistic that there will be no cut. Request is to restore to FY 2020 funding plus 6% for salary increases. Session ends on April 4th. Hoping also for some capital operations restored this year. Transgender athletics bill passed. We were excluded from the changes to the bill about placing restrictions on gun carrying.
 - d. Dr. Heda asked about the requirement for having to have office hours in their office regardless of class format for the Fall. President Chisolm explained that the Provost had said that the renewal task force hasn't met to make decisions for the Fall yet; but that there has been no change to office hour expectations at the institutional level.
 - e. President Miller expects we will be very cautious when considering changes to masks. Stated that we would be keeping health and safety foremost when making decisions.

- f. Melissa Smith asked about the removal of the Athletic Director and the surprise when that happened - asked for clarity about the process of how that happened.
 - i. Nora explained the 2019 issue and the investigation that happened then. At that time they worked on a plan for improving relationships and working on those issues.
 - ii. More accusations came out this year and we opted for an outside investigation and evaluation. That investigation showed that there was no way forward. Jason Truffant's contract is out at the end of June so he is still working on special projects for the time being but he is no longer in that position. Hoping to get search for the next director going soon and have someone in place by early summer. Buddy is the interim director at this time.
- g. Dr. Heda asked what we are doing to get our international student population increased despite covid restrictions. President Miller said we aren't doing anything proactive at this time because we are up against travel restrictions, but we are still taking applications from international students. We are not recruiting internationally because of Covid.
- h. President Miller left meeting at 12:33 PM

3. Approval of Minutes –February 2021

- a. Susan Hurley asked to have her name added to the attendance roll from that day.
- b. Motion to accept with addition of Susan's name from Melissa Smith. Adrian Slight seconded. Motion carried.

4. Committee Reports

- a. Administrative Council Report – Ashley
 - i. Current legislation is being watched but they don't expect any news back until late March/early April.
 - ii. The Strategic Planning task force met last week and for the last two weeks had been collecting information from stakeholders. Campus wide listening session coming soon.
 - iii. Library update on eBooks, ILL, technology updates, services on Zoom and software and information literacy classes, as well as AskAthena chat, open book requests, etc. Undergraduate research focus also discussed - undergraduate research conference, summer scholar program (faculty mentor training may be coming soon). AthenaCommons updates - undergraduate research, Merge, updates on the big counts of downloads. Library as a place for student gatherings while still working within safety measures. Exhibits that highlight MUW - CovidARTchive - working on getting traveling exhibits. Ashley offered to send out information if anyone had more questions.

- iv. Jess Harpole gave a student life update - life after graduation resume event coming soon. SGA elections are coming up also.
 - b. Meeting with the President- Ashley
 - i. President Miller covered most of this in her updates to the group.
 - c. Academic Council –Hunter
 - i. Academic council opened with discussion of the inconsistencies between 1302 and 1312 which both seem to lay out the process for termination of faculty. No one seems to know why they are different or why the scale of difference is what it is. 1312 is a far more lengthy process and 1302 is significantly shorter. Hunter says he would view 1302 as a gross infringement on faculty rights and extremely problematic.
 - ii. Voted to keep textbook policy (PS7201) as it was when we sent it.
 - d. PIE – Nichole (did not meet)
- 5. Unfinished Business
 - a. PS 1305 Working Group Discussion
 - i. Group is going over the draft as it is to present it to us in April meeting.
- 6. New Business
 - a. Fund A and Fund B Update
 - i. Fund A \$4526
 - ii. Fund B \$1624 with one request under review
 - b. Policy Statements
 - i. PS 1000
 - 1. Policy System - change added to reference IHL policy as well.
 - 2. Motion from Nichole Bonaventure-Larson to accept. Seconded by Terry Todd. Motion carried.
 - ii. PS 1302
 - 1. Standards for Initial Employment for Faculty
 - a. Paragraph 12 makes reference to PS1312 but is inconsistent with the referred policy in terms of time frame
 - b. Different interpretations of this paragraph makes this problematic
 - i. PS1302 describes a 2 year scenario.
 - ii. PS1312 describes more steps, improvement plans (1-3 years, etc.)

- ii. Motion from Terry Todd to table until April meeting while Ashley reaches out to get answers to these questions:
 1. What the typical use has been pre and post pandemic?
 2. Why were these restrictions put into place?
 3. What is the measure of significant student involvement?
- iii. Second from Susan. Motion carried.

7. Closing Comment/Adjourn -

- a. Terms ended in April. Members phasing out cannot vote on new executive members. You can have your replacement proxy for you at the beginning of the meeting.
- b. Meeting adjourned at 2:00PM

NEXT MEETING: April 19th (Election of New Executive Committee and Installation of new Senators)

Suggested 2021-2022 Dates: September 10th, October 8th, November 12th, December 10th (if needed), February 11th, March 11th, April 8th (for installation of new Senators and Elections)