

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 27, 2020, MEETING OF THE A&S FACULTY ASSEMBLY

Dr. David Schultz, Chair, called the Faculty Assembly to order at 2:00 PM. Due to the current health crisis, the Faculty Assembly meeting was held via Microsoft Teams.

The meeting opened with a reminder of two items that will be on the April meeting agenda: approval of list of graduates and the election of new Faculty Assembly chair and parliamentarian. Nominations should be emailed to Dr. Dwain Pruitt. Next, the Chair introduced a motion to approve minutes from the February Faculty Assembly meeting. The minutes were approved without amendment. Note added in proof: Due to a lack of a quorum (see below), this item must return to the next assembly for another vote.

Due to a COVID leadership team meeting, Dean Owen was unable to attend the Faculty Assembly, but his willingness to have open virtual forum for faculty next week was relayed. In his absence, Dr. David Brown, Dr. Susan Ryan, and Ms. Taleia Willis fielded faculty questions.

Several questions arose about the source of the budget shortfall that led to the current spending freeze. Faculty wanted to know if the freeze resulted from changes in projected revenue or if it reflects the actual current budget. Dr. Brown and Ms. Willis stated that the University as a whole has a shortfall stemming from the prorated refund of housing fees, cancelled hospital procedures, labs and clinicals shut down on HSC, etc., which will trickle down to all academic units. Regarding the effect of cuts on students' timely graduation, Dr. Brown stated that every effort is being made to ensure students can graduate on time. Faculty should alert him if there are graduate students encountering problems because they cannot access articles via library searches or need additional time to complete experimentation. The Office of Graduate Education is working to find ways for all students to earn a quality degree, even without some of the elements they were counting on.

Although a coordinated recruiting effort for Summer courses has not yet been announced, Dr. Brown stated that each department should be thinking about whom they could target outside of the University to increase enrollment. There is no word yet as to whether any Summer courses might take place in-person. Dr. Michael Losavio questioned whether faculty should accept extra teaching without x-pay, but Dr. Brown says he would have trouble requesting that, but would be appreciative of those willing to go the extra mile under the current circumstances.

Dr. Laura Moyer questioned whether new tenure-track faculty hires for Fall 2020 are binding agreements or whether the University can back out. According to Dr. Ryan, a signed letter of process ensures the offer is binding.

The Chair recognized Dr. Ann Hall, chair of the Committee on Committees, who presented a revised motion to establish the A&S Committee for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The functions remain the same as previous version, but the revised motion addresses more specific functions with the additions of items F and G (see appendix). Dr. Thomas Edison was recognized

and stated that, in response to a question raised during the January meeting, funding is not an option for a standing committee. The motion was brought to the floor.

A discussion ensued as to whether there was a quorum and whether votes could be recorded via teleconference. Dr. Pruitt sent a link to vote via chat and requested votes by email from those listening in on the meeting, but not logged in to Microsoft Teams.

The Chair recognized Dr. Beth Willey, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education, and II Barrow of the Delphi Center to present on the “Find Your Fit” quality enhancement plan (QEP). To address the loss of undecided and pre-unit second-year students, the Delphi Center designed and implemented a 3-credit elective seminar (ECPY 302: Personal and Academic Inquiry) to address a perceived lack of engagement and to enhance students’ inquiry and decision making skills. Each section has a unique theme and is taught by a faculty instructor, an integrative advisor, and a librarian.

Data collection has shown a 20% increase in persistence rates in students who have taken the course, and 90-95% of students agreed the course helped them think through decisions on major selection and career choice. Full reports can be found at
<https://louisville.edu/findyourfit>.

Dr. Schultz next recognized Aimee Greene of the Instructional Design/Blackboard Team. Ms. Greene said that Delphi Center online instruction trainings had 587 attendees over the past few weeks. In addition, the Blackboard help desk, which normally receives 9 tickets per day, is currently receiving between 50-60 tickets daily. Faculty who need help with online instructional design should contact the Delphi Center.

Dr. Dwain Pruitt was recognized to deliver the results of the vote on the motion to establish the A&S Committee for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

65 faculty members in attendance

61 votes: 56 Yes, 2 No, 3 Abstentions

There was not a quorum, so the motion could not be passed and will be re-presented at the next meeting.

After a discussion as to whether a quorum has historically been required to pass a motion and whether it should be necessary to attend the virtual meeting in order to vote, the decision to vote at the next meeting stands. A faculty salary report will be delayed until Fall.

Agenda items for the April 17 meeting, should be sent to Chair David Schultz.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:28 PM.