

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

To: Staff Senate
From: Christopher Tillquist, Faculty Senate Representative to Staff Senate

Re: Faculty Senate Meetings – January 6 and February 3, 2021

Links:

- Link to recording of January 13 meeting: <https://bit.ly/2NeIWbG>
- Link to recording of February 3 meeting: <https://bit.ly/36X2MiG>
- Link to agenda of January 13 meeting: <https://bit.ly/3jze4il>
- Link to agenda of February 3 meeting: <https://bit.ly/2MPZoiP>

Summary:

I will be merging unique information from both meetings in this report. As per usual, my report primarily concerns academic issues covered during the meeting. Enrollment is (as estimated and reported in the January meeting) up 578 students overall; undergraduate enrollment is down 125 students but there were increases in the Education and Business online programs. President Bendapudi reported that students are feeling much more enthusiastic with regard to how faculty are supporting students this semester. Good for us! ☺ Provost Boehm reported that summer courses will be mostly online and that fall courses are likely to be a combination of hybrid and online courses. Pass/Fail and Pass/Fail No Credit may become an option for students; this, within the constraints of curricular requirements. A search for the new Dean of the College of Education and Human Development is underway. The search for a new Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences failed after the lead candidate declined our offer; Dr. David Owen has graciously agreed to continue as Interim Dean until the new Provost initiates another search.

The Faculty Senate voted positively on recommendations by Academic Programs Committee for the addition of the following degrees: PhD in Social Work, intended to be a fully online practitioner doctorate for the working professional who wants to teach or be in management/leadership positions; BA in Computer Science, housed in Speed Engineering; and, a Graduate Certificate in the Horse Racing Industry, housed in the College of Business.

The Faculty Senate approved the formation of the Center for Microbiomics, Inflammation and Pathogenicity, housed in the School of Dentistry. The purpose of the new center is to provide a research structure for junior faculty to come together to expand partnerships and generate synergy. The metric of success will be the number of applications for NIH funding by affiliated faculty.

The Vice Provost & CIO M. Rehan Khan and Executive Director of Enterprise Technology Services Katherine Stevenson informed the Senate that in an effort to improve network security obsolete and unsupported computer operating systems will lose VPN (virtual private network) access. They indicated that some 900 machines will be impacted by this change. Information was not provided with regard to which units or classification (faculty, staff, student) will most impacted. Individuals running such obsolete machines have been notified.

That is all for now. Please feel free to contact me via [email](#) if questions or comments.