

Faculty Senate Meeting
Wednesday, April 8, 2020, 3:15 p.m. via Zoom
Minutes

Members Present: David Warren, Lacy Wolfe, Dever Norman, MaryJane Dunn, TaLisha Given, Richard Miller, Brett Serviss, Darrell Farmer, Michael Loos, Jessica Allen, Holly Cothren, Patti Poblete, Cheryl Massey, Bryon Martin, Lisa Massey, Trae Warner, David Sesser, Catherine Leach, Zahra Zamanipour, Megan Hickerson, Judy Harrison, Shannon Wittig, Ajay Aggarwal, Carolyn Jester, and Ivan Birch. Thirty people watched or listened to the meeting.

- I. President Farmer called the meeting to order at 3:17 p.m.
- II. Minutes of the March meeting were approved.
- III. President's Report
 - Everything has changed with the transition in leadership. There is uncertainty about the status of the program review as proposed by Dr. Adkison.
 - The financial questions remain. HSU's share of the governor's state funding cuts is \$800,000+ which in itself disastrous for the university. However, HSU expects to receive \$1,500,000 from the federal stimulus legislation which will offset the cuts in state funding.
 - No one from the Foundation has responded to the Faculty Senate's questions concerning transparency over the awarding of private scholarships or the distribution of designated funds from the Foundation.
- IV. Reports from committees*
 - Executive Committee
The Executive Committee met via Zoom on March 31 at 2:30 p.m. to plan the agenda for the Faculty Senate Meeting.
 - Academic Committee
The Academic Committee met online and put together 15 potential questions for the evaluation of instruction that is sent to students online at the end of each semester. Everyone will have an opportunity to review. The Committee welcomes feedback.
 - Building and Grounds Committee
Buildings and grounds are closed. The Committee will proceed with looking at the website and develop a process to gather information from faculty. The Committee plans to meet next week.
 - Finance Committee
The Committee has not yet met, but had hoped to meet with the University Budget Committee which has not met. The Committee will attempt to focus on the restitution of faculty salaries and retirement benefits.
 - Operations and Handbook Committee
No report

- Procedures Committee

The results of the Faculty Hearing Committee elections are in. The information will be emailed out.

- Shared Governance Committee

The Shared Governance Committee has not yet met, and there are no plans for any upcoming meetings. No report.

- Representative to the Board of Trustees

No meetings. No report. No new information.

- Representative to the Graduate Council

The Graduate Council will meet next week via Zoom. Trae Warner will inquire about the status of the graduate honor society.

V. Unfinished Business

None

VI. New Business

a. Program Review

Dr. Adkison met with the Executive Committee via Zoom and planned to meet with the full Senate. His proposal was for Faculty Senate to lead program review. The Acting Provost will be asked about how program review will be handled now. A senator asked if plans were moving forward concerning zero budgeting, and, if so, will programs that are not generating revenue be eliminated. Some discussion followed about programs being given an opportunity to justify themselves. In the event that faculty positions are cut, there is a process in the Faculty Handbook stating that faculty who may lose their jobs must be notified at least a year in advance. There are still expectations for faculty input into the program review process.

b. Questions for the Faculty Senate President to ask

- What are the responsibilities of the “Assistant to the President” and where is the money coming from to pay that salary? Where is the money coming from to pay Dr. Sommer?
- Is the administration aware of how concerned the faculty are and can the faculty be assured that they will have input?
- How is the search for the new president going? When will the faculty know something? Can faculty be assured that their concerns will be listened to?
- Will summer school be online?
- What has happened to the work that was previously done on program review?
- Is the new leadership going to be interested keeping the liberal arts mission?
- When will the budget be ready to present to the board?
- Do we know when a director of Human Resources will be hired?

- c. Possibility of special called Faculty Senate Meeting
If a special Faculty Senate meeting is called, it should be if there is a special speaker. Decision makers should be asked to answer hard questions.

- d. Other discussion
There are issues with some positions being filled and others not, the dramatic increase in salaries in Admissions and Advising without increased enrollment, the scholarship awarding process not including more need based, the need for stats on prospective students and the need for studies on the cost of conditionally admitted students. There was also a discussion about checking with external agencies concerning issues with Credit and No Credit grades.

VII. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 4:28.