

Faculty Senate Minutes
Emergency Meeting June 11, 2020
2:00 – 3:30pm

Virtual: <https://tamusa.webex.com/tamusa/j.php?MTID=m46f9e2774e088816b2e057af60dde37b>

In Attendance: Joseph Simpson, Katherine Bridgman, James Finley, Sandra Lara, April Najjaj, Megan Wise de Valdez, Daniel Delgado, Keming Li, Gilbert Barrera, Smriti Bhatt, Leonard Love, Matthew Mangum, Young Kim, Rebekah Piper, Eunhye Kwon, Sabina de Vries, Myriam Jimena Guerra, Maria Acevedo-Aquino, Aida Almanza, Cynthia Teniente-Matson, Michael O’Brian, Jeremy Zuni

Guests in Attendance: There were also 57 guests attending the virtual meeting.

Meeting Called to Order: 2:00pm

Approval of Minutes: A poll was taken by Joseph Simpson and the minutes were approved as read.

University Updates:

Dr. O’Brien provided updates regarding the upcoming fall semester:

- Increase of student credit hours; more students are taking more hours than last year (36%).
- Fall schedule for face-to-face classes: 30% will be face-to-face, including lab classes; 70% will be held online.
- Bidirectional cameras are being purchased as upgrades for the 10 largest classrooms. Student attendance will be staggered to accommodate social distancing. Students are notified of hybrid schedule.
- Advising is currently conducted online.
- Modular Building B is used for testing.
- Chairs were asked to poll faculty as to their teaching preferences for the fall semester (online, hybrid, or face-to-face).

Dr. Teniente-Matson provided updates regarding the upcoming fall semester:

- There are additional resources available for the fall through the CARES act as well as FEMA to help preparations for the upcoming semester.
- The current plan is to maintain the established academic calendar without modification. This may change as the COVID-19 situation changes.
- There is a 5% in terms of funding however, the university is still committed to some program growth.
- In terms of wearing masks, faculty will be able to request the use of masks in the classroom however, current the University has not established a firm policy on this yet.
- Dr. Matson reiterated Dr. O’Brien’s assertion that faculty members have the option to teach online, and students will have the option to attend class online.

Dr. Teniente-Matson addressed social justice and inequity concerns, especially as this pertains to the George Floyd incident. Dr. Teniente-Matson reminded everyone that Texas A&M was built on the goal to mitigate inequities in South Bexar county and San Antonio in general.

There was also a discussion of an email sent out University wide pertaining to COVID-19 exposure of someone on campus. Dr. Teniente-Matson stated that glitch in the system creating this email caused some confusion. Discussions are under way on how to more effectively manage these notifications.

Old Business

Update on Faculty Senate Taskforce on COVID-19:

Academic Competitiveness (Joseph Simpson)

- The taskforce is focused on the online versus face-to-face teaching issue for the upcoming fall semester (Dr. Joseph Simpson).
- Health and safety planning is in progress
- Focus on mission change of the University in terms of Education and Research.

Student Success (Maria Acevedo-Aquino)

- Committee is holding meetings every two weeks
- Focused on:
 - Improving sense of community
 - Offer resources including those pertaining to COVID-19
 - Discussion on how to make information available to students
 - How to manage graduation and host events that are traditionally held in person

Business Continuity (Brenda Rowe)

- Task force is focusing on:
 - Classroom safety issues pertaining to COVID-19
 - Monitoring classroom transformation for fall teaching
 - Monitoring CDC guidelines in reference to COVID-19 safety
- Subcommittee of Business Continuity Health & Safety updates(Dawn Weatherford):
 - Consultation with institutional and external resources (i.e. HVAC/COVID-19 safety issues)
 - Working with facilities in terms of classroom safety for faculty and students
 - Instituting TrainTrack training pertaining to COVID-19 safety training

Professional Development (Joseph Simpson):

- OLC Training – Faculty led forums/workshops; 1-1.5 hour session will start in July. They will cover topics related to online instruction concerns:
 - Synchronous/asynchronous teaching
 - Equal access and accommodations
 - Recorded content for courses
 - Defining flexibility
 - Quantitative instructions
 - Writing intention

Faculty is invited if they want to help with training.

Concerns regarding Jaguar Day One were discussed.

New Business

Jaguar Day One – Lack of Shared Governance

Joseph Simpson addressed concerns regarding Jaguar Day One. There were concerns voiced by faculty regarding the change of book retailer that have been going on for about one year. Lapse of shared governance were observed.

- Megan Wise de Valdez motioned to read the '1966 Joint Statement of Shared Governance'. Leonard Love seconded the motion.
- Joseph Simpson read the Joint Statement of Governance.
- Votes: 15 approved
1 abstained

Vote to extend the meeting by 10 minutes:

Votes: 13 approved
2 not approved
1 abstained

Black Student Union

James Finley motioned to discuss resolution to support statement by the Black Student Union and Black Lives Matter. Daniel Delgado seconded the motion.

Vote on resolution:

15 approved
1 abstained

Diversity Office

Daniel Delgado motioned to present Resolution to Establish a Diversity Office. Sabina de Vries seconded the motion.

Vote on resolution:

12 approved
2 abstained

Meeting adjourned at 3:45pm.