

MUW FACULTY SENATE
October 8, 2021
Zoom Meeting

In attendance: Kristy Alpe, Kelly Bennett, Jonathon Hooks, Ian Childers, Mary Helen Hawkins, Shyam Heda, Susan Hurley, Holly Krogh, Shana Lenoir, Hunter Manasco, Chad Murphy, Amy Pardo, Shonda Phelon, Melissa Smith, Terry Todd, Lestonio Yarbrough, Shahara'Tova Dente (visitor), L J Ball (visitor)

Absent: Nichole Bonaventure-Larson, Kathy Newman

1. President Manasco called the meeting to order at 12:17 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes from September
 - a. Motion to accept by Ian Childers. Seconded by Mary Helen Hawkins. Motion carried.
3. Committee Reports
 - a. Administrative Council Report – Hunter
 - i. Hunter Manasco shared updates on Funds A and B and on Faculty Senate's support of a campus vaccine mandate.
 - ii. Carla Lowery reported an uptick in email phishing scams and the university's purchase of Qualtrics survey software.
 - iii. Brian Anderson noted the Cromwell chiller plant should be fixed in December.
 - iv. Deans shared how their colleges are working on university academic excellence goals.
 - v. Marty Hatton shared a new program for getting professors into high school classrooms.
 - vi. Tammie McCoy reported on funding for new simulation training for nursing.
 - b. Meeting with the President – Hunter
 - i. President Miller clarified that to begin addressing compression problems, faculty below the median salary for their rank earned higher raises this year.
 - ii. Students had not received adequate notice of the cafeteria's holiday closure for Labor Day due to the staff member responsible being off duty. President Miller assures Faculty Senate that students who asked were provided food and that changes have been made to avoid a similar problem in the future.
 - iii. Karen Clay is meeting with the other IHL attorneys for clarification about the federal vaccine mandate. Receiving federal financial aid does not constitute a government contract, but the university does have contracts/agreements with the Army Corps of Engineers for Plymouth Bluff and with TVA for energy equipment; campus receives these federal monies, which may be relevant to the issue of mandates.
 - iv. The campus mask mandate will be in place the rest of the semester.
 - v. More campus activities are being held now that COVID numbers are declining.
 - c. Expanded President's Cabinet – Hunter – no longer active (will be removed from future agendas)
 - d. Academic Council – Hunter
 - i. PS 1305 (Emeritus Status) has been introduced into the review process.
 - e. PIE Report – Holly
 - i. Revised mission statement has been submitted to IHL and should be voted on this month.

- ii. The mission drives assessment. Units will need to review their missions and assessments as they relate to strategic goals and priorities. Deadline for this is in 6 weeks.
 - iii. A new QEP is needed; invitations for membership are being sent out to the colleges and other campus entities.
- 4. Unfinished Business
 - a. Discussion of the drafted memo requesting expansion of activities eligible for funding from the Faculty Research Committee focused on faculty stipends. A concern was voiced about expanding eligible activities (especially stipends) without expanding the pool of money available. Potential limitations on how the money can be used needs investigating. Hunter motioned to table the stipend discussion and send the drafted memo forward to the provost without that particular item. There was a second. The motion carried.
 - b. Hunter motioned to table Faculty Senate's support letter for a campus vaccine mandate due to IHL disallowing presidents the power to mandate vaccination on their campuses. Terry seconded. The motion carried.
- 5. New Business
 - a. Fund A and Faculty Foundation Funds
 - i. Fund A – five applications have been approved for \$1630; \$4370 available with a possible addition of \$2000 later in the year (for travel and presentation at conferences)
 - ii. Fund B – five processed applications awaiting awards out of \$4000 available (for improvement of classroom teaching)
 - b. No policy reviews
- 6. Other
 - a. Clarification requested on what salary medians (campus? college? department?) were used for raises.
 - b. Holly reported back on criteria for Grievance Procedure Committee membership (i.e., three women and three men). Criteria are noted in Employee Handbook. HR unsure of the reasoning behind this. It was suggested that Faculty Senate examine the Faculty Handbook (Amy volunteered) and the Employee Handbook (Holly volunteered) for instances of non-inclusive language.
 - c. Request to add discussion of the campus bookstore to the November agenda.

Closing Comments/Adjourn – President Manasco adjourned the meeting at 1:04 p.m.

Next meeting: November 12th

Suggested 2021-2022 Meeting Dates: December 10th (if needed) January 14th February 11th March 11th April 8th (for installation of new Senators and election of executive committee)