

Faculty Senate Retreat Notes, 5/14/2021

Meeting begins at 9:04

I. Business Meeting

1. Approval of Minutes from April Meeting

Minutes approved.

2. COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements Update

We have advocated for mandatory vaccination for the fall. The President has now announced that students who will be on campus will be required to be vaccinated. We encourage faculty to get vaccinated and report it at Stockton's website.

3. Early Registration Resolution Update

The administration has a policy allowing for athletes to register early. Opposition to this policy has been expressed by the Senate in the past. As of now, student athletes can still register early, but with limitations depending on whether they are active as well as others. This does not move them to the very top of the registration list, only moves them up to the earliest time to register on the day of their registration. This started as a pilot program but became a formal policy in 2019.

4. Honorary Degree Revocation Update

In the January meeting we suggested a policy by which honorary degrees can be revoked.

Update on this from Emmanuel Small: We tweaked the policy to provide for this. See new wording on Procedure file 1162, which allows for any party that can recommend honorary degrees to also recommend revocation of degrees. We have the same policy for markers and memorials.

Motion to endorse the procedure. Seconded.

Vote on endorsement: Passes 32-0

5. Faculty Senate Support for the Creation of Staff Senate

See document titled "Faculty Senate Support for the Creation of the Staff Senate" at Faculty Senate website

Vote to endorse the recommendation to for a Staff Senate: Passes 35-1

II. Reports

1. Task Force on Faculty Immigration Visa: Yulong "Helen" Gu

See report available at Faculty Senate website. Recommendations include greater transparency regarding the process and policies, having designated individuals who are points of contact, an expansion of the list of designated and proved outside legal counsel, full support for both work visas and green card processes since the current \$6,225 costs constitutes a pay equity issue, and clarification on same visa processing procedures for NTPP.

Motion to vote on endorsement. Seconded.

Vote to endorse report and recommendations: Passes 33-1

2. Task Force on Use of University-Owned Vehicles Procedure

Presentation by Tait Chirenje and Joshua Duntley. See report on the Faculty Senate website. Vehicles are used in many different ways across different programs and areas of the University. Recommendations include (1) revisions be made on budget for vehicles based on input from committee, (2) prioritization of vehicle use to fulfill grant obligations, (3) change vehicle policy to cover damage or theft of personal vehicles used for official university business, (4) allow programs on campus to keep keys to vehicles, rather than returning them late each night and checking them out again early the next morning, (5) Allow one staff or faculty representative to check out all keys for the group when multiple vehicles are checked out, and (6) add policies that penalize drivers of university vehicles for reckless driving, driving without a valid license, and failure to cancel reservations for vehicles no longer needed. Several outstanding concerns remain (see report on website).

We are still in early stages of making changes on this and we will continue to work on this.

Motion to continue the Task Force for another academic year. Seconded.

Vote on motion: Passes 32-1

3. Task Force on Stockton: The Next 50 Years and Beyond

We have 17 members who have expressed interest in serving on this task force.

Motion to start Task Force on Stockton: The Next 50 Years and Beyond. Seconded.

Vote to start Task Force: Passes 35-0

Standing Committee Year-End Reports

4. Q&A for Academic Policies

See report on Faculty Senate website. See especially #6 in the report, discussing proposed changes to Faculty Senate Constitution related to Anti-Racism. Discussion about changing the Constitution to having "social justice representatives" will take place later, when other proposed changes to the Constitution are considered.

5. Q&A for Academic Programs & Planning

We met six times and considered six proposals, which are outlined in the report at the Faculty Senate website.

6. Q&A for Administration and Finance

We met seven times and have prioritized many issues including (1) cost of University vehicles, (2) defining “shared governance” given the financial transactions done over the last year without faculty input, (3) support for seeking external funding, (4) reviewed salaries and administrative positions related to racial/ethnic equity, (5) reviewed how our University works to support woman and minority-owned businesses, as well as small businesses in Atlantic City, (6) explored foundation grants for students, and shifting definitions of “merit” for student scholarships, and to have a more diverse group of people who review applications for merit-based scholarship, and (7) explored how we can work with students to boost student retention. For the fall, we will look at the library funding.

7. Q&A for General Studies

Details provided in report and presentation slideshow on Faculty Senate website. We think it is important to remind the community of the importance of liberal arts education and general studies for the University. There was a change in the MOA eliminating G-course conveners and provides for just one G convener, compensated at 4TCH/yr. We have concerns about (1) the workload for the new, single convener, (2) the loss of interdisciplinary nuance with just one convener, (3) MOA terms of qualification, and (4) committee memberships as service. There is also a discrepancy in compensation between this new, single G convener and conveners that do the similar amount/types of work (e.g., W2 and QUAD conveners).

8. Q&A for Information Technology and Media Services

A detailed report is available at the Faculty Senate website. Committee activities include (1) review and discussion of Dean’s survey, (2) discussion about Blackboard Ultra and how to prepare for change, (3) discussion about the possible places where the IDEA deadlines for selection of modalities for student evaluations and the selection of objectives, and (4) exploration of Learning Management System (LMS) alternative project.

9. Q&A for Library

Report available at Faculty Senate website. We had four meetings. One of the major issues we discussed was the ending of NJVid, which will be discussed later. Streaming services will go through 2022, after which it will most likely be replaced by several databases rather than just one. The library has also been asked to reduce its budget by \$33,000. We are also looking into questions about use of library space.

10. Q&A for Research and Professional Development

Report available at Faculty Senate website. We awarded eight sabbaticals. We examined the history of race- sex- and academic school-based disparities in R&PD applications and awards. See summary in report. We would like to have alternates added to the committee.

11. Q&A for Student Affairs

Report available at Faculty Senate website.

III. Discussion and Informational Items

1. Middle States Accreditation Update

Bob Heinrich and Claudine Keenan: We have been consolidating the document, which will be reviewed by administrative editors and the president in June and presented to the Board of Trustees in July. We will then have a month to work on edits and submit document to External Team Chair. We will then have time to do more work on it. The external team will then visit next spring semester.

2. NJVid Update

Joe Toth presenting. Streaming video service and films on demand use has been increasing dramatically over the last several years. NJVid is getting out of the business, which means we would need an alternative to get licensing for videos. There is no other alternative that is similar. Over the next year, we will be proposing to administration our plan to replace NJVid and what it might cost. We will need to acquire several different databases.

Other item

Discussion of email from Senate Executive Committee related to compensation to some administrators for extra duties over the summer of 2020.

3. Introduction and Welcoming of New Senators

4. Farewell to Outgoing Senators

Meeting adjourned at 12:49