

ASU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
1 p.m., May 6, 2020
Remotely held via Zoom due to ongoing COVID-19 situation

Crystal Kreitler President PSY	X	Rozena McCabe Vice President KIN	X	William Taylor Secretary SSCJ	X	Twyla Tasker Parliamentarian C&I	X
Lee Atkins PT	X	Anthony Bartl PSCI/PHL		Alfred Beccera NURS (Clin)		Jennifer Braziel NURS	
Jay Brown HSP	X	David Faught ENG/LANG		Mark Hama ENG/LANG	X	Larry Hettick M&M	X
John Kellermeier AGRI	X	Heather Lehto PHYS/GEO	X	Sarah Lynch HIST		Flor Madero COMM	X
Vincent Mangano AEF	X	Nick Negovetich BIO	X	Aldo Pinon- Villarreal CIV ENG	X	Lopa Roychoudhuri CS	
Christopher Shar SW	X	Andrew Siefker MATH	X	Matt Shipes VPA-Music		Marva Solomon T.Ed.	X
Ralph Zehnder CHEM	X						

Call to Order @ 1:00 p.m.

I. Invited Guests

- A. Angie Wright, Interim President and VP for Finance and Administration – present
- B. Dr. Don Topliff, Provost and VP for Academic Affairs – present
- C. Dr. Javier Flores, VP for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management – not present
- D. Christopher Houston, Staff Senate President – not present
- E. Karmen White, ASU Bookstore Manager – present
 - i. The Faculty Senate and the ASU Bookstore have worked together to ensure that student, faculty, and staff needs are met. The bookstore is moving toward directly working with departments regarding course book adoptions.

II. Announcements

- A. There was the introduction of new faculty senators.

III. Standing Committee Reports

- A. Academic Affairs (Dr. Mark Hama)
 - i. No report.

- B. Bylaws and Standing Rules (Dr. Andrew Siefker)
 - i. The Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee is beginning the initial work to update the Faculty Senate Constitution to include revisions that clarify electronic voting and digital communication.
- C. University Affairs (Dr. William Taylor)
 - i. No report.
- D. Student Affairs (Dr. David Faught)
 - i. No report.
- E. External Affairs (Dr. Matt Shipes)
 - i. No report.
- F. Committee on Committees (Dr. Rozie McCabe)
 - i. The Committee on Committees sent a survey to all faculty, soliciting preferences for committee assignments and encouraged all faculty, including those at a distance and adjunct faculty, to feel free to volunteer to serve as they see fit. The Faculty Senate received approximately 120 responses, which is roughly twice the number of available committee slots. The Faculty Senate will consolidate survey responses and assign faculty to various committees. The Committee on Committees will finish its recommendations soon and then forward them to the provost.

IV. Unfinished Business

- A. Faculty Responsibilities and Duties (OP 06.14)
 - i. The Academic Affairs Committee has made revisions to OP 06.14. All Faculty Senate standing committee chairs were instructed to query their respective committee members for input. Two major issues are how to incorporate ADA access and updates from the state of Texas, which are still being considered and worked.
- B. Faculty Awards
 - i. The Faculty Senate received a record 42 total nominations for the 2019/2020 ASU President's Awards for Faculty Excellence in the three main areas of faculty performance. All faculty senators who are not part of the Executive Committee comprised the Semi-Finalist Selection Committee and have selected the five (5) Semi-Finalist Award winners in each area. The Executive Committee comprised the University Level Review Committee, has selected a single exemplary finalist in each area, and has forwarded its recommendations to the provost, who fully supports them. The ceremony to recognize these faculty members and selected finalists has been postponed to a later date to be announced, likely in August.
- C. Faculty Select Committee

- i. The Faculty Senate reached out to the chair of the Faculty Select Committee (FSC), who reported that the FSC will not meet until Fall 2020 due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

V. New Business

- A. New grading procedure for this semester only
 - i. A new grading procedure for this semester only rolled out a few weeks ago and is posted on the COVID-19 section of the ASU website. Facing the unique challenges associated with the COVID-19 situation, the Faculty Senate and the ASU administration sought a way to handle academic challenges in the best interests of both students and faculty. This new procedure governs grading for the Spring 2020 semester only. ASU weighed both the pros and the cons of substitution credit due to the many implications of doing so. The resulting Spring 2020 procedure was initiated by students, will be handled by a review committee, and requires nothing additional from faculty.
- B. Faculty IDEA in Spring 2020
 - i. There was discussion about widespread faculty concerns regarding IDEA in Spring 2020 based on the ongoing COVID-19 situation and its impact on IDEA results. There are several initiatives aimed at aiding the transition to an online environment, including extending the drop date and ensuring that IDEA is only one part of faculty evaluation. The inclusion of all faculty and faculty senate is critical to this process because IDEA is a vital issue to all faculty.
- C. Online Faculty Community
 - i. The Online Faculty Community (OFC) is available in Blackboard and gets updated weekly. In the OFC, faculty can find helpful articles and resources dealing with online platforms and pedagogies intended to help faculty during this rapid transition to an online environment. Angie Wright's state of the university video will be placed on the OFC.
- D. Presidential Search Committee
 - i. ASU has formed a Presidential Search Committee, whose membership includes the current Faculty Senate president. All faculty input is welcome and can be shared through respective faculty senators. The current goal is to identify a candidate by fall.
- E. Task Forces for Returning to Campus
 - i. Two task forces have been established to decide the best method to return to campus, one focused on students and the other focused on staff and faculty. Phase One will survey departments to identify issues to consider with a return to campus. Everyone will have a voice in this important process and should feel free to provide input. These two task forces will diligently work to

consider input and to ensure the safety of the campus community in a manner that is logistically feasible.

F. University Presidential Address (given by Angie Wright and recorded)

- i. Angie Wright acknowledged the current challenging times but highlighted that ASU is prepared to excel as it always has in the past. ASU has already survived a series of unprecedented events, including giving students an extra week of spring break, rapidly moving all courses online, transitioning to a remote work environment, and rolling out a credit/no credit procedure. She reinforced that we are all in this difficult time together and will rise above the challenges. Several important milestones are ahead, including budget preparation for 2021, the two task forces for returning to campus, and the presidential search committee. A video of her comments will be posted to the Online Faculty Community.

VI. Adjournment – 2:24 p.m.