

Faculty Senate Meeting November 20, 2020
Hames Room FNBA and Zoom

Attendees: Scott Anderson, Robert Bradley, Andrea Brown, Donna Caldwell, Ross Carroll, Sarah Davidson, Addie Fleming, Joe Ford, Amanda Wheeler-Gryffin, Joanna Grymes, John Hershberger, Annette Hux, Amy Hyman, Donghoon Kim, Cheryl Knight, Natalie Johnson-Leslie, Joseph Loar, Jeff McLaughlin, Loretta McGregor, Bill Maynard, Suzanne Melescue, Pradeep Mishra, Amanda Mohler, Vicent Moreno, Nikesha Nesbitt, Tim Oliver, Arianne Pait, Robert Robinette, William Rowe, Amany Saleh, Ed Salo, Marcus Tribbett, Wayne Wilkinson and Karen Yanowitz.

Proxy Attendees:

Absentees: Sudeepa Bhattacharyya Mary Donaghy, Hans Hacker, Paul Minor, Greg Phillips, and Paul Sikkel

*Senators from the NGCOB were not present due to a Faculty Meeting called by Dean Dr. Melody Lo, during the Faculty Senate meeting

Meeting Called to Order: Donna Caldwell established a quorum. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by Donna Caldwell

Order of the Day: Motion made by Marcus Tribbett to change the meeting agenda; seconded by Loretta McGregor; motion carried. Staff Senate Resolution added to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes November 6, 2020 motion made to approve minutes by Loretta McGregor, seconded by Annette Hux, motion carried.

Guest Speakers:

Dr. Shane Speights: COVID-19 Updates

Europe is currently seeing 2nd wave and there is exponential spread in the U.S. There is some predictability of spread based on social factors/mass population movements. Due to these factors, there is concern regarding the upcoming holidays. Today Craighead County ranks 4th in the state with 107 new cases. Estimated that 5-10 times more people have COVID-19 than documented. Likely that young are driving cases and infecting older generations. Contact tracing – NYIT set up the portal system for self-reporting, allowed for early intervention by medical staff. ADH tends to run behind, NYIT system allows persons to know to quarantine or isolate earlier. Seems to have been beneficial. Next 4-8 weeks will be a hard winter- expect infections, hospitalizations and deaths will be higher than what we have seen to date. The worst is in front of us. Good efficacy on vaccines that are coming out but roll-out may be bumpy. Everyone should be good by April/May in terms of vaccines. Better treatments: Monoclonal antibodies, Anti-Virals. Still learning about the “Long” COVID patients.

Question: Spring 2021 – NYIT plans to bring their students back in January but has contingency plans.

Question: Should we pay more attention to community spread numbers than the Astate numbers-
Yes

Question: What is a low enough number to not be teaching online all of the time – WHO says below 5% is good, White House says 9-10% fine, other countries say 3% or below. Difficult to get robust testing. Arkansas is a trickle down state, we do not get testing supplies like larger states.

Question: What is best thing we can do- Masks, need to be 3 ply 70/30 blend. Masking is in addition to 6 foot distancing. Hand hygiene very important.

Question: Dosage of vaccine- two doses- 2-4 weeks after second dose before full immunity.

Question: Those that are anti-vaccine, if considerable percentage do not vaccinate how does it impact others- feels like there should be good compliance, but it will make a difference if majority do not get vaccinated

Question: What is the likelihood this will be a seasonal vaccine – yes likely it will be a yearly vaccine. Nextstrain.org is a website to follow developments.

Question: Is there more information on ventilation, should we be concerned with ventilation and air flow in our campus buildings. Should we limit the amount of time in buildings – you can adjust air-turnover rate in a room. Being inside does increase your risk of contact. Hard non-porous surfaces are more likely to hold the virus – it can live for a couple of days on these surfaces.

Question: Indoors risk of contracting the virus goes up after 30 minutes- some research shows the virus can hang in the air for 3 hours but unclear how infectious.

Question: R number – hard to understand what that number means for us. A lot of controversy around it.

Old Business:

Constitution and Bylaws Committee – Amanda Mohler Chair of Committee. The committee has been working on definitions for faculty, faculty senate and faculty associations and are now working on roles and responsibilities

CR/NC Update- Recommendation sent to the Chancellor and it will be implemented

New Business:

Standing Committee Report: N/A

Non-Standing Committee Report- Will meet on Monday 11/23/20 to discuss education mode for Spring 2021

Expedient Motion from Staff Senate- asked to add Faculty Senate to the resolution but not change the resolution. McGregor motioned to suspend the rules and use expedient motion, Ed Salo seconded, motion passed. Marcus Tribbett made a motion to add Faculty Senate to the resolution from staff senate, Loretta McGregor, seconded. Discussion, CNHP comments were read. Bill Maynard called the question, unanimous vote to support Staff Senate Resolution

Other Business:

Human Resources looking into donating vacation time to catastrophic leave fund automatically without filling out a form – Lori Winn is not sure the state will allow that.

Adjourn:

Motion made by Ed Salo to adjourn the meeting, the meeting adjourned at 4:11 pm