



FACULTY SENATE

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting
April 22, 2020
Zoom Hall

Attendance: Attached

All proceedings of the meeting was recorded and uploaded on UB Box.

Meeting was called to order by Chair Dr Robert Miletich at 3.00pm

Agenda: The agenda was accepted unanimously.

Minutes Minutes of FSEC meeting, 4/8/2020 was approved and accepted unanimously.

President's report:

Not present.

Provost: The Provost highlighted UBs academic and research mission during COVID19 based on two related and concurrent issues. UB will have to adapt to the COVID19 budget alterations, and prepare for the 'new normal', which will include altered enrollment, changed curriculum delivery, functioning of research and adapting overall campus operations.

The Provost mentioned that as has been stated at earlier meetings the revenues are down that could result in budget cuts and spending restrictions. UB financial year begins April 1st which once again will have to be adapted to the current environment. In response to NY State call UB has responded that it will explore the possibility of curtailing the budget by addressing position management, delaying capital projects, deferring OTPS etc.

PreCOVID19 92% of student credit hours were delivered in the traditional format but now in the COVID19 normal 99% was being delivered online. There is a lot of uncertainty regarding Fall semester since there are a lot of external factors that influence the format including interdependency. Therefore, it is essential that the process be given due thought, and there is need for critical planning since it is only expected that challenges lie ahead. However, due diligence will be given to continue UBs mission and maintain campus health.

The first facet of reopening the campus will include research and libraries while maintaining social distancing. UB looks forward to students returning to the classrooms with appropriate adjustments for the COVID19 normal.

The Provost said the faculty could expect an email informing them of the planning steps that are in the works. The COVID19 committees would work across campus and develop plans regarding enrollment, semester acceleration etc.

Chair's report:

The Chair spoke of COVID19 and reiterated the uncertainties addressed by the Provost.

He reminded the Senate that April 22 was earth day. He informed the Senate of the UB website on sustainability:

<http://www.buffalo.edu/sustainability.html>

Parliamentarian: None.

PRESENTATIONS: All presentations are on UB Box.

1. **Research and Economic Development update:** Venu Govindaraju, Vice President for Research & Economic Development presented the RED update. He mainly addressed 4 points. Current status of research and expenditure, Laboratory operations, Short & long-term responses to COVID19, and Community/Faculty activity.

2. **Teaching beyond the campus:** Christine Kroll, PhD. Assistant Vice Provost and Director of the Center for Educational Innovation rendered this presentation. She revealed the impact of COVID19 pandemic on their operations. With the transition of learning from in person to long distance the need for educational innovation was high and there was an increased attendance for their courses regarding technology, student assessments, instructional tools etc.

3. **Course Evaluations & COVID-19:** C Van Zile-Tamsen, Assistant Vice Provost for Educational Effectiveness spoke about the experiences the COVID19 normal. Her office was charged with conducting surveys to

understand the effects of long distance learning from the perspective of graduate, undergraduate students and instructors. She presented the student surveys. To be continued at the next Senate meeting.

Executive session: None

New business: None.

Old Business: None

Adjourned: Meeting was adjourned at 4.38 pm.

Submitted by Jessy Alexander, Secretary of the Faculty Senate, April 2020