

Utah State University

DigitalCommons@USU

Faculty Senate & Faculty Senate Executive
Committee

Faculty Senate

8-23-2021

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes, August 23, 2021

Utah State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/fs_fsexec

Recommended Citation

Utah State University, "Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes, August 23, 2021" (2021). *Faculty Senate & Faculty Senate Executive Committee*. Paper 667.

https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/fs_fsexec/667

This Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Senate at DigitalCommons@USU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Senate & Faculty Senate Executive Committee by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@USU. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usu.edu.





FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 23, 2021

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Old Main-Champ Hall (Zoom)

Present: Boyd Edwards (President), John Ferguson (President-Elect), Provost Frank Galey (Ex-Officio), President Noelle Cockett (Ex-Officio), Michele Hillard (Exec. Sec.), Benjamin George, Maureen Hearn, John Ferguson, Doug Ramsey, Vicki Allan, Denise Stewardson, Robert Wagner, Don Busenbark, Danielle Ross, Clint Pumphrey, Jan Thornton

Absent: Timothy Taylor (Past-President), Yoon Lee, Nicholas Roberts, Lucas Stevens, USUSA President

Guests: Paul Barr, EPC Chair
Sarah Klain, Assistant Professor, Environment and Society
Hilary Renshaw, Title IX Coordinator
Neal Legler, Director, Academic & Instructional Services
Nikki Kendrick, PRPC Chair

Call to Order - Boyd Edwards

Approval of Minutes – [April 12, 2021](#)

Motion to approve April 12, 2021 minutes made by Denise Stewardson. Seconded by Doug Ramsey. Minutes approved as distributed.

University Business - Noelle Cockett, President | Frank Galey, Provost

We are starting to see more students on campus and that is exciting. There are approximately 2300-2400 students who will be participating in Connections. Classes start on Monday and there will be a big rush of students moving in over the weekend. This is a full year but not quite as full as in the past. Some students have paid deposits on rooms, apartments, etc. but have not yet registered for school. There are 400 students who have not yet paid their full registration. USU is dropping those students who have not paid anything yet. Made up a little bit of ground in the enrollment decrease by phoning and texting students who have not registered and/or committed to registration. A lot of work is still being done before the semester starts. Several bills were passed by the Utah State Legislature regarding COVID, masks, vaccines, and mandates. In May things looked pretty good with the virus and it seemed like there wouldn't be much to worry about so these bills passed. They wanted at least 75% in person classes for the fall semester. Now they are more concerned about the spread of the Delta variant, but they don't want to come back for a special session. In the meantime, the Pfizer vaccine was approved. One of the bills stated that a person could opt out of the vaccine for religion, personal or medical reasons. This academic year the university will be making the vaccine as available as possible. It is felt that mandating students and faculty may not help in individuals being vaccinated. The president thought about doing an incentive plan, but the bill prevented her from doing that. Right now, the only thing we can do is ask students, faculty, and staff to please wear a mask and get vaccinated. It is felt that if many of these individuals are wearing masks, then it will help motivate others to do so as well. We are seeing that students that cannot get into an in-person class do not want to come to campus. They are not interested in attending their classes via Zoom. The priority this week is to get in touch with students and encourage them to register and attend classes. There is a 1% drop in enrollment which equates to a \$2.2M drop in tuition and fees. This is a significant loss for the university. The State of Utah made the number of freshmen enrolling at the institutions a performance goal. They are expecting higher enrollment growth and we will be required to show that

growth if we want any performance dollars. This performance goal has also been linked to funding for future buildings. As we prepare to open back up masks and hand sanitizer will be provided in every classroom for the students and faculty. We will also be handing out COVID care packages to the Connection students. Currently there are some individuals who are still working remotely. Supervisors, vice presidents or deans can approve flexible remote work, but if they want to remain full remote, they need to work the request through the COVID committee. On campus interactions so far are very positive and the students are expecting to interact with the faculty. One on one mentoring for students is critical and it is important to build that bond and trust with the students. Right now, there are about 50 individuals a day that are being tested. Anyone wanting to be tested must schedule an appointment. The good thing about being tested in the morning is that they will have their results in the afternoon. Beginning this fall vaccination clinics will be offered every Thursday at the Logan campus. Anyone who wants to get a vaccine can schedule and receive it. Day on the quad will provide a booth for vaccination.

There will be a newsletter going out to all faculty on Wednesday or Thursday of this week. The university will be providing guidelines for what takes place in the classrooms. If faculty are in a laboratory, studio or on a field trip, they may want to consider using a KN95 mask. University administration has talked with the department heads about buying some of these masks for their faculty. Faculty can also tell the students that they are not comfortable with them not wearing masks. They can do one on one advising via Zoom. One of the items we're currently working on is classroom safety. A big concern for the university is not being able to track active cases. If the case containment team can't trace the outbreak the class may have to be moved to online learning. The tool that is being put together is a way for faculty to capture seating assignments electronically. This will help with that problem. Students will have to enter in where they are sitting, and they will need to sit there for the entire semester. This will help trace those who were sitting within 6 feet of someone who tests positive for COVID. If faculty are doing Connections, it is recommended that they keep the students outside, move them around every 15 minutes and ask them to wear masks. We lost the social distancing option due to the legislature requiring 75% student attendance. If there is a situation where two cases cannot be contact traced, then there is a color-coded approach that can be used. Faculty will know which students will be out isolated or quarantined. Red status means everyone would need to go to remote via Zoom for a few days. Once the faculty member tests negative they can then return to in-person teaching. Connection students should spread out as much as they can and still have a seating chart and have the students sit in the same seat every time. It was recommended that everyone upload their vaccination record at www.aggiehealth.usu.edu. Testing will continue at the east stadium and wastewater will continue to be tested. We need to stress that faculty, staff and students shouldn't come to class or work if they are sick or not feeling well. The Luminary event is this Friday night. Faculty are asked to please wear their regalia and come and help welcome the freshmen.

Information

COVID Containment Strategies - Frank Galey | Boyd Edwards
See above.

COVID Management Preferences Survey - Boyd Edwards | Sarah Klain

We have created a survey for distribution to faculty and staff regarding attitudes about whether we can require vaccine or masks. We seek Senate approval to distribute the survey in order to gather information to help understand where our community sits regarding COVID strategies. Over 700 public and private universities across the United States is mandating vaccines in order to come back to their campus. Once this information is gathered the university would be able to report to the state legislature and encourage them to look at changing their minds. Results of the survey will be shared with the State of Utah Faculty Senate leadership.

Motion to move the COVID Management Preferences Survey to the Faculty Senate Agenda made by Denise Stewardson. Seconded by Danielle Ross. Moved to agenda.

Faculty Reporting of Sexual Misconduct - Hilary Renshaw | John Ferguson

Last semester Spring 2021 it was decided to pilot the faculty as resources and reporting options. Moving back to faculty as required reporters of sexual misconduct. There was confusion about who was in the reporting role and the faculty was reporting these incidents as a student of concern. The faculty senate has created a working task force to serve as a liaison between the Title IX office and the faculty. Looking for other members from the College of Science and Engineering. Ideally by March of

2022 there will be an outcome from the task force. Some faculty worry that making them reporting individuals ruins their relationship and trust between the students and faculty. (See report).

Motion to move the Faculty Reporting of Sexual Misconduct report to the Faculty Senate Agenda made by Maureen Hearn. Seconded by Denise Stewardson. Moved to agenda.

Reports

[Empowering Teaching Excellence Annual Report](#) - Neal Legler | Travis Thurston

This past year we have seen a significant increase in deep teacher engagement. Had a number of learning circles. A lot more people have been earning badges and certificates. Building up a good internal support system. Optimize the team – five fulltime people are currently doing this. This summer CIDI released a central hub for all teaching resources www.teach.usu.edu.

Motion to move the Empowering Teaching Excellent Annual Report to the Faculty Senate Agenda made by Denise Stewardson. Seconded by Maureen Hearn. Moved to agenda.

Old Business

[Update on 400 Code Rewrite](#) - Nikki Kendrick

Added Scott Hunsaker to the PRPC committee. Nikki will continue to help transition the work to the new committee and chair. Code 403 will not be ready but 401 and 402 will be ready by the end of August. Categorized things into non-substantive vs. substantive changes. Adjusted phrasing that makes code a little easier to read. Substantive changes go to PRPC.

Motion to move the Update on 400 Code Rewrite to the Faculty Senate Agenda made by Danielle Ross. Seconded by Ben George. Moved to Faculty Senate Agenda.

New Business

A new electronic approval and tracking program (Curriculog) is being set up to help with the tacking and approval of faculty code changes. This should be ready to present at the next Faculty Senate Executive Committee mee.

Adjourn: 5:00 pm