

Spring Faculty Assembly Meeting

Zoom webinar

Meeting Minutes

March 25, 2020

Present: up to 117 faculty attended

Next Meeting: TBA

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic Faculty Assembly was held as a webinar with President Blake, Provost Berberich, Faculty Senate President Heather Kanenberg, Faculty Senate-President Elect Elizabeth Beaver, and Faculty Senate Executive Committee members Nick Kelling and Mike McMullen.

Webinar and comments will be posted for faculty that were not able to attend at the scheduled time. Questions that were not answered during the webinar will be provided to President Blake and Provost Berberich.

I. Welcome

Dr. Kanenberg welcomed everyone and provided a brief overview on how the webinar would take place.

Dr. Blake provided a brief overview of the current status of the university and actions that are being taken during this crisis. Some of the items covered were employees listed as essential personnel, extended deadlines, HR development page, and the financial picture on local, state, and federal levels.

Dr. Berberich acknowledged all of the work that has been completed by faculty to ensure the continuation of the learning environment for our students. After comparing other systems, he recognizes that faculty have led in critical ways during this crisis. He also announced that CETL (Center for Engagement, Teaching, and Learning) will be in it's new location by the fall semester.

II. Common themes for the Question and Answer Period

Student Issues

How are students receiving information?

FAQ page

Services available

Proctor U

Communicating with students

Final exams delay

Will be addressed on the Thursday communication from the Provost.

Student evaluations

Evaluations are needed for feedback and future development. Will continue to do end of semester evaluations but the Provost is working on model where this semesters' data would not have negative impact on the faculty.

Summer and fall semester

Summer registration opens soon. It is currently unclear how the summer may look. Plans should be made for an online approach.

Pass/Fail petition

UH/UHD/UHCL have a petition circulating. Provost Berberich is working with FS and FSEC on a policy that would go to shared governance for a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading option for students.

Promotion and Tenure

Provost Berberich will be suggesting that junior faculty have the option to extend their probationary period for one year. At this time there is no consideration of adapting the current cycle (19-20) for other faculty.

Plan for faculty that become ill due to COVID-19

The initial thought is to have a support network similar to what is currently in place.

Scholarship funds

Ways to assist students and faculty with unused funds

Faculty Development Leave

This has not been delayed. The current process is still in place.

Recognizing graduating students

The hope is to plan (if possible) a late summer or early fall graduation ceremony. Alternate ways to recognize those students sooner are being explored. Diplomas will still be sent.

III. Business portion

Dr. Kanenberg reminded everyone that the video and chat will be made available to everyone.

A draft of the Fall 2019 minutes will be posted and submitted for approval at the fall assembly meeting.

She opened the floor for nominations to Faculty Senate President-elect. Dr. Paul Withey and Dr. Stephen Cotten were nominated. The nomination process will be open for three days and can be submitted in that timeframe. Voting will be sent through Qualtrics and will remain open for 5 days. Results will be announced at the end of the voting period.

IV. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 1:25.