

SUU Faculty Senate Meeting

September 24, 2020

4:00-6:00

Via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/631037544>

Attending: Bill Heyborne, Rheana Gardner, Steve Barney, Kelly Goonan, Brandon Wiggins, Andrew Misseldine, David Christensen, Celesta Lyman, Andrew Kent-Marvick, Skip Jones, Rachel Bolus, Lijie Zhou, Gary Wallace, Dave Berri, Richard Cozzens, Rosalyn Eves, Jim Mock, Matthew Eddy, Carlos Bertoglio, Paula Mitchell, Greg Powell, Doug Ipson, Donna DeSilva, Daniel Swanson, Ross Flom, Brianne Kramer, Richard Bugg, Bruce Haslem

Proxies:

Guests: Scott Munro, Trisha Robertson, James Sage, Johnny MacLean, Jon Anderson, Tessa Douglas, Lynn Vartan

Not Attending:

1. Call to order (4:01)
2. Recognition of Presenters and Guests
 - a. Tessa Douglas – Southwest Technical College
 - b. Scott Munro – Faculty Athletics Representative
 - c. Lynn Vartan – APEX
 - d. Johnny MacLean – Assistant Provost for Faculty Affairs
 - e. Provost Jon Anderson
3. Approval of Minutes from April 2020 meeting (4:05) Zoom Recording
 - a. MOTION APPROVED. No discussion.
4. Action Items (4:06)
 - a. Policy 6.47 – Transfer Credits
Johnny has made some updates and more to be announced – will be addressed at a future meeting
 - b. Policy 6.30 – Excused Absence (4:10)
James Sage and Scott Monroe
Monroe has been the faculty athletic rep for 1 ½ years. Regarding student travel for competitions, the signature authority for excused absences was James Sage and it hadn't been actioned for a couple of years. In reviewing the policy, all the excused absences will now go through Scott Monroe for approvals. Regarding make-up work, allowing for more flexibility for student athletes. Would like to have the students and their professors make a plan together regarding

homework and their athletic schedules. In policy, faculty are encouraged to work with the student.

In addition, this is predicated on an annual or semester-based meeting with James Sage, there will also be implemented a missed class policy which emphasizes that athletes must be in class when they are here, and there is a limit to missed classes without approval.

James will look into what the policies are for military absences.

De Silva: Do the students have letters that they give departments or instructors?

A: Students are supposed to notify (excused absence letters) their instructors at the beginning of the semester. A weekly update is planned to send out to instructors on approved absences, even though students are still required to work with instructors.

Some discussion on academic advisors being added to Canvas courses to help keep student athletes accountable. Athletics should be sending faculty emails about advisors joining class. Open to suggestions on how to improve these processes.

MOTION TO APPROVE THIS POLICY 6.30 – MOTION APPROVED. No further discussion.

- c. Fill vacant committee seats/figure out new college reps (4:36)
Changes were made live to the committee seats document.

Standing Committees: Academic Affairs Committee, Faculty Review Board, Faculty Salary and Workload. New committee: Honors Faculty Council. Need reps to fill seats.

Celesta Lyman will fill the CHS seat for Academic Affairs
Gary Wallace Faculty Salary and Workload for CECS
Kelly Goonan Faculty Salary and Workload for CHS

5. Information Items (4:40)

- a. Senate meeting dates for AY 2020-2021
 - i. Sept 24, Oct 22, Nov 19, Dec 10, Jan 21, Feb 25, Mar 25 and Apr 15

All agendas and attachments are available on Faculty Senate Canvas page. If you have agenda items, get those to Bill one week in advance. As always, Executive meeting takes place one week prior to general meeting to discuss agenda items. etc.

- b. SUU/SWTC Dual Enrollment (4:45) – Tessa Douglas
Partnership with SWTech and SUU for students to be simultaneously enrolled and earning credits at both institutions. This relationship also provides student life (events & games, etc.) access for SWTech students.

- c. New academic calendar (5:04)
Calendar has been finalized and approved by the President’s Council and ready to go to Board of Trustees. Odd piece is that in order to keep balance between hours and minutes of MWF and T/Th. Classes will begin on Wednesday following Labor Day – which makes us short one Tuesday, where it will be picked up at the end of the semester on Dec 13th (Wed) and color coded as a T/TH day to balance the hours and minutes.

Haslem: 7-week schedule concern on odd times/meetings -- there needs to be a make-up of two weeks of course material.

A: Provost is looking into issue

- d. Lynn Vartan – APEX for Fall Semester (5:09)
All events will be in person – guest will be on stage or remote and projected on the screen where Vartan will interview from the stage. Lectures are also available via live stream. Bookmarks and postcards of the semester calendar of events are available.
- e. Updates regarding Faculty Leave Policy and P&T Policy (5:13)
Ad hoc groups were working on modifications for these policies – voted on these in Feb and approved changes. The Dean’s Council had some discussion items and then all were delayed due to COVID. Discussion have been reactivated per new Provost, an arbitration committee was called to resolve some concerns. Policies will be redrafted and sent to President’s Council and Board of Trustees for adoption. Heyborne will get changes in front of Senate when finalized.
- f. Provost Anderson – Strategic Planning Process (5:15)
Update and request for help in forwarding strategic planning processes for the future. Objectives are to align statements and intention for our SUU community.

The current strategic plan started in 2016 and intended to go to 2022. Operational issues were addressed but very little operational strategies. This is a process to address, refine and bring clarity to our mission and future.

6. Discussion Items (items requiring discussion and debate) (5:19)

a. COVID related concerns and updates

The COVID taskforce was formed late spring/early summer as COVID was rapidly developing on campus, to address a variety of scenarios. Heyborne and Provost has been representing faculty interests on committee. Work is ongoing in addressing questions and concerns.

Assurance: it may seem that the primary concerns are the bottom line and student preferences. We are also very concerned with the health and well-being of faculty and staff, and have been from the beginning of this crises. We thank you for the work you have done to preserve the rich SUU experience we all value.

Provost expressed appreciation to the senate and faculty for the work they've done to address all the various complications.

Q: Are we going to continue this next semester as is? Please advise faculty as soon as possible so planning can begin.

Heyborne: Waiting a bit longer to analyze data and how sister institutions are handling the situation before we make an announcement.

Provost: We need to make sure we are clear to students about the modalities of classes offered next semester. Our plan is to move as close to normal as possible during spring semester. We're going to target a date of Oct 5th to have course modalities defined for Spring. An email will be sent with guidelines on how to report soon.

FYI: there have been 1200 new cases reported in the state of UT today. SUU has averaged 8 cases a week since the beginning of fall semester. Thanks were expressed to our outstanding students on the low cases so far.

Also, appreciation for OTL, Johnny MacLean, and IT for all the hard work to get us to where we are.

Comments: More training is needed on using Zoom for faculty by CETL and OTL.

Students have expressed preference for face-to-face classes but, if not possible, asynchronous was preferred in survey Prof. Goonan administered to her classes.

b. Hate speech/free speech/election (5:41)

1st amendment rights are honored on this campus, per example on Monday (9/21). Concerns about the divisiveness of upcoming election and how that will come to bear on campus. Student Services are having discussion related to this.

We can't control message but to a certain extent we can control time and place.

Suggestion to designate a free speech area/zone on campus.

Provost: The campus policy for Free Speech is 5.1 – allowances for time, place, and manner control, rather than area, are preferred. It's becoming increasingly hard to defend free speech zones on college campuses.

7. Standing committee updates (5:50)

- a. Academic Affairs (Steve Barney)
Looking at policy 6.28, once full committee is formed.
- b. Faculty Salary and Workload Committee (David Berri)
Forming committee and will plan meeting with Marvin Dodge.
- c. Faculty Review Board (Gerry Calvasina)
- d. Distinguished Faculty Lecturer/Grace A Tanner Committee (Andrew Kent-Marvick)
Vote has taken and winner was Chris Phillips, Philosophy. Will also discuss soon the criteria/processes for choosing winners, etc.
- e. Inclusion Diversity Awards (Shalini Kesar)
- f. Outstanding and Distinguished Educator Award (Richard Cozzens)
- g. Distinguished and Scholarly Award Committee (David Tufte?)
- h. Distinguished Faculty Service Award (Paula Mitchell)
- i. Ad hoc Parking Policy Committee Update (Daniel Swanson)
- j. Ad hoc Faculty Maternity/Family Leaves Policy (Kelly Goonan)
Working on policy to have by the end of the year.

Trish Robertson: Staff Association has put together a policy committee and would like to collaborate. Rob Savage is the chair. Collaboration was agreed.

- k. Treasurer's Report
- l. Past President's Report
- m. President Elect's Report
Newly formed Diversity Committee will be sending out a survey. Watch for it.
- n. President's Report
Revisions to the Athletics and bylaws of the Benefits Committees. Please provide comments and feedback.

OTL has recently begun discussions for a badging system for SUU faculty and staff. A micro credential system to get certified training. This discussion is just beginning. Please reach out to President if you have any questions.

8. Executive Session – No motion.

9. Adjourned (6:00)