

Minutes

The Faculty Senate met April 14, 2020 via Zoom due to COVID19 social distancing requirements.

Attendance/Quorum

President Terri Torres called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. All senators or alternates were present except Tracey Coon, Aaron Scher, Ryan Brown, Christopher Syrnyk, and Samantha Henkell. A quorum was determined.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the March 3, 2020 meeting were approved as written.

President Torres amended the agenda to allow Dr. Naganathan to speak first.

Report of the University President – Dr. Nagi Naganathan

- Dr. Nagi greeted and thanked everyone for getting the term started well.
- Reported that the students were pleased.
- Active in communication with other University Presidents, and inquiring how they are navigating things during this time.
- The Presidents are going to be in conversation with Governor Brown. The Governor is considering some regional reopening possibilities.
- Spoke with Treasurer of Oregon and key Legislators. Everyone, including universities are taking a measured approach as far as next year and beyond. The legislature does not want to take any action until after the next forecast which will happen on May 20.
- Governor Brown announced a statewide framework in partnership with California and Washington.
- Staying in touch with the Superintendents of schools and the President of Klamath Community College to exchange information.
- Continuing to highlight the capital project. Boivin is still being considered active for renovation. The first special session will address COVID19, and the second session should be for consideration of the capital budgets. Will have more clarity at that time. Updates on possible postponed projects will come at a later date.
- Will be looking at cash flow for this year and next. It will depend on when the money comes from the federal government. In a good place in terms of managing our budget.
- Thanked everyone for including him in the meeting.
- End of Report

Reports of Officers

Report of the President – Terri Torres

- Greeted and thanked everyone on how well the transition to remote delivery was going.
- Sen Ex met with a new Senior Leadership group and discussed: summer term, student fees, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES), and morale of faculty.
- Met with Provost Mott and discussed the following issues: grades, student evaluations, dates, faculty needs, equipment needs, communication, sabbaticals, tenure and promotion dates, and commencement. Shared governance and open communication were appreciated.
- Sen Ex asked senior leadership, specifically Dr. Nagi to activate the Program Reduction and Elimination Committee (PREC), and OIT policy 20-050.

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- President Torres read a portion of the policy as follows:
 - When a significant net reduction in budget is imminent, the Program Reduction and Elimination Committee, PREC will provide recommendations to the President. PREC will take a holistic view of OIT's needs synthesizing the perspective of its various constituents. PREC advises the president on imminent budgetary reduction. PREC recommendation may include but are not limited to the reduction or elimination of individuals programs, as well as non-targeted cuts across the board, reductions in budgets and or salaries, besides the termination of existing positions. Program reductions may include delaying or canceling searches, reducing overall budget efficiencies
- Resolution calling for the formation of PREC:
 - Whereas the recent COVID19 has created considerable uncertainty and the possibility of an economic downturn, both at the national and state level, and whereas other Oregon public universities have announced budget cuts, layoffs, and salary reductions in anticipation of an economic downturn, and whereas an economic downturn has the potential to result in reduction in state funding for Oregon Tech and/or a significant downturn in our student enrollment, and whereas Oregon Tech has an existing policy, OIT 20-050 Program Reduction and Elimination, that provides for an open and transparent shared governance procedure to evaluate potential budget reductions and make recommendation to the President of the university, and whereas time is of the essence when dealing with fiscal issues and for ensuring proper planning for contingency, now, therefore, be it resolved, that Oregon Tech Faculty Senate request that President Nagi Naganathan immediately follow the procedures outlined in OIT policy 20-050 Program Reduction and Elimination, and ,be it further resolved Faculty Senate President Terri Torres moved immediately to seek recommendations from the Oregon Tech faculty for possible members of the Program Reduction and Elimination Committee
- President Torres expressed desire that Dr. Nagi form this committee now. The committee will consist of both faculty and administrators. Requested for a motion to move this forward. After discussion, motion passes.
- Sen Ex and all faculty are asked to join, in thanking Scotty Hayes and Christine Ward for their help in the remote delivery process. Letters have been prepared for them on our behalf. A motion was made to send letters to Scotty Hayes and Christine Ward as well as Scott Adams and Jeff Hower from the Portland Metro campus for their great work. Motion passes.
- Thanked Dr. Mott for her confidence in faculty and allowing them to solve remote delivery on their own.
- End of Report

Report of the Vice President – Matthew Sleep

- Greeted everyone and thanked faculty for stepping up with the remote delivery process.
- The Academic Council discussed the virtual graduation ceremony.
- Met with senior leadership and discussed how they are dealing with student fees.
 - Fees are being reduced in Klamath Falls fees by \$75.00
 - At the same time we announced a 5% tuition increase
 - Expressed concerns that we are not doing enough for students regarding fees
 - Student fees cover personnel cost and debt service. With those fees there are no furloughs or layoffs of staff directly involved
 - Also concerned over the communication to students regarding fees and how they were broken down. Spring term there was a decision made to apply a singular fee
 - It was understood there were time constraints involved, as well as fiscal restraints that the university was under
- End of Report

Report of the ASOIT Representative – Samantha Henkell (Klamath Falls)

- No Report

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Reports of Standing Committees

Faculty Rank Promotion & Tenure (RPT) – Monica Breedlove

- No Report

Faculty Welfare – Kari Lundgren

- Pleased that the university is working on the sick leave policy. Concerns about the policy include enrollment requirements and application implementation process-leave equity.
- Reported that the data from our survey has not been reviewed. Committee will meet later this month to review data. Happy to have more than 60% faculty participation with 119 responses.
- Thanked everyone who replied to the survey.
- End of Report

Academic Standards – Addie Clark

- Reported on the Charge 3: Faculty Senate Committee structure in light of Unionization.
- President Torres, Provost Mott, and I met about this in fall. At that time Provost Mott expressed desire for the committee to research what other universities had done and report back spring term.
- The committee complied that research, and intended to report back to Provost Mott by inviting her to the spring meeting. Due to the unfortunate circumstances regarding COVID, the committee decided to postpone sending the report, and meeting with Provost Mott until further notice.
- Report is available upon request, and the committee is looking forward to collaborating with the Provost in the future.
- End of report

Faculty Compensation (FCC) – Mike Healy

- Has not met.
- A compensation model produced by one of our members was presented to the Faculty Compensation Committee. Waiting for a response.
- End of Report

Reports of Special or Ad Hoc Committee

- No Report

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business

Stephen Metsig (Portland Metro)

- Expressed gratitude to all faculty and staff at Portland –Metro (PM) for their hard work. Relayed that students appreciate all efforts going into teaching them at this time.
- Conducted a survey during the fall term to PM students. 120 students participated across 20 majors. The survey centered on registration and advising.
- Stephen delivered a brief summary of the survey and focused on key results. Below are some of the highlights from his presentation:
 - Students were asked about their access to resources
 - Students feel very confident with their faculty advisors

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- Inquired about degree works and interventions that might help them
- The biggest takeaway students reported was in regards to S.M.I.L.L.E.Y.
 - S – Provide syllabus
 - M – Provide materials and cost information
 - I – Send an introductory message
 - L – Conduct long-term advising
 - E – Ensure an exact course map
 - Y – Ensure a year-long schedule
 - “Faculty adoption of S.M.I.L.L.E.Y. practices can improve the student registration and advising experience.”
- Comments stemmed from focus groups. Encouraged faculty to check out the full report provided in the reading packet.

Connie Atchley (IT)

- Thanked President Torres and all faculty for the input and feedback. IT'S has benefited because of recent experiences.
- Reported that Zoom has been proactive in maintaining security measures for all users.

Tony Ritchie (IT)

- Zoom has put out more updates in the last three weeks to cover up any holes, etc. that could affect users.

Open Floor Period

Mike Myers - MMET

- Discussed the syllabus and reported that faculty are using Canvas and it is up to faculty to publish.

Report of the Provost – Dr. Joanna Mott

- Greeted and thanked everyone for how they transitioned to remote delivery.
- Reported that Christine Ward is handling a large amount of work, and thanked those for being patient during this time. Reported students are pleased.
- Student enrollment is very critical at this time. Farooq Sultan is pulling enrollment data daily and forwarding that information to admissions. Information on students who have dropped get sent to retention and advising. They are following up individually with student concerns and providing helpful resources to retain them.
- An additional \$150k in financial aid from the Foundation and the Institution has been added as a resource to help offset cost to students.
- Encourage faculty to be as responsive to students as possible upon registration.
- Reported Christine Ward from on-line has over thirty student workers, working on accessibility requirements for students needing accommodations.
- Regarding commencement – a fairly rapid decision was made.
 - There is not face-face-commencement in June
 - Looking at various software products, but does not want to make the whole commencement automated
 - Would like to include student input to make it more memorable for them
 - No decisions regarding faculty involvement
 - There will be two ceremonies, one for each campus
- Discussions about summer and fall terms.
 - It is likely summer term will be remote delivery with exceptions for specific Allied Health program.
 - At this point the plan for the fall term is a face-to-face format. Class and classroom size to accommodate social distancing will be part of the plan
 - A plan B will be in place in case the plan changes

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- Provosts statewide started meeting daily for the past few weeks for an hour.
- The Higher Education Coordinating Committee (HECC) are paying attention to what each university is doing during this time and are receptive to Provost feedback.
- Governor Brown will come out with an extension of the higher ed., executive order. We are extended past April 28. There was a discussion about the end date, thinks the extension will be through June 13, and subject to change.
- Skyped with a finalist for the DTP position. Asked Dean Peterson to go back to committee with questions regarding the HAS Dean position. One early faculty search was filled. Dr. Nagi would like to discuss each position on a case by case basis.
- Thanked President Torres for getting faculty feedback appropriately.
- End of Report

Report of the President's Council Delegate – Terri Torres

- No Report

Report of the Inter-institutional Faculty Senate (IFS) Representative – Mike Meyers

- No Report

Report of the Fiscal Operations Advisory Council (FOAC) Representative – Matthew Sleep

- No Report

Report of the Administrative Council Delegate – Zach Jones

- No Report

Adjournment

President Terri Torres adjourned the meeting at 7:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Vanessa Bennett, Secretary
/sb