

Faculty Senate notes

David Craig

2020-10-09

(Meeting via Zoom)

Provost Terry was guest of senate

Dr Terry Remarks and discussion

- Student worker in president's office tested positive.
- Faculty are concerned about covid isolation.
- On survey from senate: problem with lots of information not being true or incomplete – case of students claiming things without full info.
- 206 tested Wed - 19 students positive usually 2 additional quarantined per positive test. Moving exposed students to separate quarantine, etc.
- Trying to be robust and aggressive with testing etc.

Second day of school - blatant party including student athletes forced them not to go to class, quarantined them, etc. Feel bad for freshmen, 1st year faculty, etc.

Babb on senator role – need to be leaders, proactive.

Butler: what about faculty as enforcement?

Terry: Indoors and in class, need to be reminded, outdoors have not pushed. Faculty need to follow, collegiality issue, have to let dept head, dean, Terry know.

Rausch: student are trying to avoid wearing masks becoming belligerent, in library.

Terry: ask for name, as for ID (which will escalate) report to Mike Knox.

Babb: reiterate need to be leaders.

Terry: issue of student misbehavior of reporting again leading to misinformation. Time we have to be more aggressive. Would like to work on statement quickly.

Holland: OK for committee to not do survey. Reviewed charge of committee.

Zoom dropout problems interrupted discussion here.

Babb: have a good start on discussion, due to dropout problems. We could get started on statement now.

Medlock: need to say for my faculty that Wed is difficult day for testing due to class times

Terry: what about extending window on Wednesday? (Noted this might be possible)

Babb: could have committee meet supplemental meeting.

Terry goes to phone due to dropout problems

Terry: About half schools in system have eliminated spring break, we are not, mainly to keep consistent with AISD, etc,

Financial: state budget? this year increase in enrollment, combined with tuition and fees, cuts up to about 2-3M this year. Lots of extra costs: COVID, SSC higher, not requiring dorms could have revenue loss. Not sure of state cuts in Jan/Feb. Don't know how all costs/lost revenue will work out.

Thinks scholarship system is broken: GPA maybe high, 2 year scholarships without 4 year, size of scholarship endowment limits GPA And scholarship duration. Need to get consistency and bigger scholarship fund, even against what Wendler wants with principal's scholarship. Have to reform it.

Review of minutes:

Note that name of new committee is COVID committee Move to accept: King, second Medlock. Minutes were approved.

Post-visit discussion

A senator noted that it had been heard that student medical could test any time.

Babb: good thing for committee on COVID to look at.

It was noted that there is an issue of information not getting out. It is possible that Wednesday testing is from system and paid differently.

Babb: need to move on down agenda.

Committee reports

Defer action on at large committee

Communications & Perceptions Committee (Medlock)

- Reviewed revision of dress code
- Revision of dress code procedure, making less specific.
- Made less specific, eliminated most things about shoes.
- Jeans left mainly for staff.

Senate viewed revised policy via screen share.

Senator: why this? why now?

Medlock: staff council was working on this in spring, then COVID, not sure, haven't asked HR.

Senator: could not find a policy this extensive at any other institution. Did this exist before?
Faculty don't look at. Some places have policy that does not apply to faculty, and some places have statement that can't be used against students. Normally such don't apply to faculty.

Senator: jeans appropriate in labs, not same as protective clothing.

Babb: suggests this be distributed.

Discussion lead to it being distributed and ask for feedback from senators to be compiled.

Leitch moves to adjourn and Clark seconds.

Meeting was adjourned.

COVID committee meets with interested senators afterwards.