

Faculty Senate meeting minutes 2021-01-15

D. Craig

Welcome/Call to Order

Minutes: December 04, 2020

Rollin move to accept. Leitch seconded

Current and Pending Business:

COVID Committee Next Steps

Babb: communication important. December 7 deans took exception with instrument presented.

Opportunity to collaborate with Provost on COVID survey.

Discussion on issue

It was noted that the Provost was open to meeting with committee. Issues were noted with clear direction on safety issues, quarantine of immediate social circle of WT individuals, no recent training updates, noted good contact tracing by WT testing staff.

Babb: suggest committee meet and discuss a) explicit concerns and how to send to Provost; b) committee make up mind about what to do with survey or future communication with provost.

President Elect Governance Committee –

Need for standard operating procedures.

Medlock and Babb got materials from committee. Asking committee to continue input, extend scope.

King: do you want committee to address whether or not president should serve on committees? Yes, things of that nature should become part of SOP.

Faculty on campus should be made aware of reconfiguration, make things explicit.

Joint Faculty Student Committee on Academic Affairs

King: have had email issues: students have survey put together to go out to deans (pre-break). Will have meeting with students in spring.

Faculty Handbook (standing)

Babb: seasonal window sort of closed. No comment from committee.

Faculty Travel/Support Gap Analysis Committee

(strike/table for now)

New Business:

Bookstore

Concerns: interface and procedure is student-unfriendly. Comments?

Garcia: no communication.

Babb: found to get books in hands timely takes draconian shipping charge.

Garcia: textbook order cancelled because of older edition with no notification.

Babb: will look for ways for senate to participate.

Crosman: joint student committee could help.

Clark: could we send comments back referenced to the effect in classroom?

Tyrer and Garcia: there are grants and loans that only allow use of bookstore for student textbook purchase, so this is serious issue for students.

Babb: please forward comments to me on Bookstore issues.

Incomplete Contracts

Blackboard assistants are requiring certification of incomplete contracts before granting student access to prior semester wclass materials, adding another layer to faculty work in situations that should be resolved quickly between the faculty and student.

Issue of ability to get students access to wclass, with greater bureaucratic hurdles in a time when we are supposed to be flexible.

Please send concerns or examples to Babb.

Dr. Terry Visit 01/29

Babb: Bring frank and open “hat” that day.

Example: (Medlock) COVID testing recently started requiring uploaded insurance card.

Farren: was an email in December about needing insurance card.

Babb: want channel opened to Provost for quick reply (especially for COVID issue). Should bring it up with Terry. Pass questions that you want anonymous to Babb.

Open Floor

Farren: is university wanting to get vaccine here? Babb: this is a sort of issue we need to address with provost.

Leitch moves to adjourn, Rollin seconds.

Adjourned.