

ADVISORY COUNCIL OF FACULTY SENATES

Remote meeting by ZOOM (COVID pandemic 2020)

Monday December 14th, 2020 3:30-4:30 PM

Attendees: Bill Self (Chair), Deanna Michael (Vice Chair), Sherry Schneider (UWF), Ann Marie Cavazos (FAMU), Anna Carlen (FGCU), David Bloom (UF), David Henry (NCF), Eric Chicken (FSU), Hanadi Hamadi (UNF), Jamie McDonald (FGSU), Jenifer Schneider (USF), Tim Boaz (USF), Joe Harrington (UCF), Keith Koons (UCF), Kimberly Dunn (FAU), Sylvain Dore (UF), Kevin Wagener, Sarah Hernandez (NCF), Fawn Ngo (USF), Ray Thomas (UF), Todd Adams (FSU), Matthew Crow (UWF)

Discussion of COVID-19 situation across SUS and Spring semester

ACFS members expressed concern over the rise in hospitalizations for COVID-19 in Florida, especially in the context of more classes meeting face-to-face in the Spring semester. The Chair explained that universities going online in response to increased hospitalizations for COVID-19 would entail informing the Chancellor and the BOG. The current BOG position is that each institution responds to its own circumstances.

Each university established its own criteria for returning fully to campus and when to return to remote. Most administrations planned to increase the number of face-to-face classes in the Spring semester. Campus testing was higher on campuses with higher funding; the lack of equity in funding for the SUS institutions was evident in the amount of testing available to faculty, staff, and students. It seemed that all universities would continue to require face coverings on campuses through Summer A.

A motion was made and passed for the Chair to send a memo to Chancellor Criser requesting the BOG advocate for the Google contact tracing app and increased state financial support for COVID-19 testing, including rapid testing, for the universities, prioritize vaccine distribution to faculty, staff, and students, and clearly define when the universities should go to remote instruction. (Memo is posted below)

Discussion of USF reorganization

At USF, the BOG determination of 8.5% potential budget cut became a \$56.9 million cut in reoccurring funds and a total of \$93 million in budget cuts over the next 19 months. The distribution of the cuts was decided by the administration and shared with the Deans. At a meeting on October 14, the Provost announced to the College of Education that it would become a graduate school and go to another college. In mid-November the President and Provost were asked not to attend a Faculty Senate Executive Council (FSEC) meeting to allow discussion of the budget cuts and the response by the leadership. It was decided to send the BOT a letter discussing areas of concern: the lack of a strategic plan to guide decision making

and where the needed cut of \$56.9 million originated when carry forward had been growing. The BOT agreed to meet with the FSEC and to have a budget workshop on December 11. At the workshop, the administration shared new information that had not been shared with Deans or faculty before the meeting. It is believed by faculty leadership that the crisis was created to refocus financial support among the colleges and through that to hire new talent. The BOT supported moving forward with the budget cuts for 2021-2022 but the 2022-2023 cuts were postponed until a strategic plan was created. From the discussion, the BOT seemed to associate the cuts with the COVID-19 response. The President did acknowledge that the faculty had to be involved in the strategic process for curriculum decisions.

Other SUS institutions' administrations are sharing lower cuts with the faculty leadership, everything from only the 8.5% requested by the BOG to 10%. USF administration believes that the 8.5% will be permanent. In the discussion, it was pointed out that for the 8.5% to become permanent, the legislature would have to pass a bill allowing funding to be cut to the SUS institutions.

There was also a discussion of furloughs at SUS institutions. To some members it seemed that the crisis is not the budget but a movement to Responsibility Centered Management (RCM) through cuts.

New Business

At the Spring meeting, Bill will arrange for Zoom meetings with key legislators.

From the Floor:

Furloughs have been discussed at different SUS institutions. The BOT at UF passed a furlough policy. USF is considering a policy that only includes out of unit faculty. The Faculty Senate will not support it unless more safeguards are implemented.

Legislation was passed to limit programs for licensed mental health counselors to those accredited by CACREP by 2025. CACREP limits accreditation to programs in colleges of education. Psychology programs will have to give up programs by 2025. SUS institutions UWF and FIU will be greatly affected by such legislation requiring CACREP accreditation. This legislation puts planning and curriculum changes at the legislative level. This action needs to be highlighted to the BOG.

Meeting adjourned at 4:53 pm