

FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, November 18

1:00 PM

Faculty Council and Senate Website: <http://behrend.psu.edu/for-faculty-staff/committees/faculty-senate-and-council>

- I. Call to Order – Emily Cassano, Faculty Council & Senate Chair
- II. Approval of the minutes from previous the Faculty Council Meeting - Josh Shaw and Inkyu Kang
- III. Welcome and Comments from the Chair
- IV. Report from the Chancellor, Ralph Ford
 - a. Thank you for continued involvement in strategic planning.
 - b. Senate Resolution
 - i. SRTE and Annual Review – working on guidelines for this. Pam will comment. Should be a holistic approach and are having discussions around that.
 - ii. Contract Language – Message heard loud and clear throughout university. Provost is in talks with Senate about the language. Did not end up in any Behrend contract language because of timing.
 - c. Covid-19
 - i. Large increase toward end of in-person semester – last two weeks. Large uptick week after Halloween – but can't trace it to a particular event.
 - ii. Walk-in symptomatic cases have decreased.
 - iii. Will see an increase due to optional departure testing. 700 students tested over two days. Positive students will be given option to stay on campus if they cannot quarantine/isolate at home.
 - iv. What will happen in January? Probably an increase in pre-arrival and surveillance testing.
 - v. Wellness Days are planned into Spring Semester in lieu of Spring Break. Can find specific dates on Keep Teaching Website
 - d. Parent Townhall – about 215 attended. Answered over 85 questions.
- V. Report from the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Pam Silver
 - a. Planning a Spring Faculty Day on January 12 – full day of panel discussions and workshops. Concurrent 45-minute sessions on all kinds of topics related to teaching. 15 different panel discussions and 4 workshops. Any volunteers for panels/workshops, let Pam know.
 - b. Alternative Grades will be used again this Fall. Satisfactory/V/Z. All info is on Keep Teaching Site. This semester, you will have traditional 48 hours after exams. Give them a letter grade, then they will have several weeks to make decision to use alternative grades. Cannot use these if they have an Academic Integrity Violation. May carry implications such as financial aid or major entrance issues.
 - c. Evaluation for Teaching 2020 – PowerPoint from Dr. Bishke's office. (SP?). Will send to me.

- i. SRTEs – Spring and Summer 2020 should not be used. Fall 2020 are optional and at the discretion of the faculty member. Will stay in dossier henceforth. Decision to not use them cannot be used against you.
 - 1. Changes in Place – 4 University Mandated items. 2 Revised open-ended questions.
- ii. Alternative Assessments – For 2020 Annual Review, faculty must state that they made a “good faith effort” to deliver courses and describe. This is optional for further reviews (2, 4, 6, Promotion and Tenure). They are required for Fall 2020.
 - 1. Self-Reflection
 - 2. Student Input
 - 3. Analysis of a course based on real-time adjustments
 - 4. Comparisons to previous year assessments and goals, if applicable.
- iii. Make sure you read the documents!

VI. Report from the Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, Ivor Knight

- a. Alternate Grading Option – will not be available for graduate students in the Fall of 2020.
- b. Undergraduates and Research after we go remote – May continue to conduct research on campus if they are living in the area. They may not use this justification to stay on campus. Faculty members cannot require that the student does research during this time. About 80 approved to do research but cut in about half after Nov 20. This approval could be rescinded at any moment because of the epidemic.
- c. Question from Carrie – Any exemptions or extensions for NTT faculty regarding Annual Reviews or Promotion? Pam answered: School Committees have modified criteria to include the fact that Covid had a lot of effects on Teaching, Research, and Service. Does depend on how school has set up these policies. Take up with School Director and ask what modifications are being made and how the Annual Review Committees are being informed. Pam will speak to this at next Academic Leadership Team Meeting.

VII. Report from University Senator, Matt Swinarski

VIII. Committee Reports

- a. Academic Computing – Inkyu Kang – Survey b/w May and June about transition to remote learning. Met on Oct 13 to discuss findings. Many issues have been addressed and fixed. Another survey will go out in Spring.
- b. Athletics – Carol Putman - Email
- c. Curricular Affairs – Lisa Jo Elliott – Identifying duplicate courses – identified 2 categories. Music and Statistics. Many believe Statistics need to be separate b/c it depends on the type of research.
- d. Faculty Affairs – Brian Boscaljon – Sent to School Directors about alternative assessments to replace SRTEs. Created a survey that went out today – will follow up with the results next semester.
- e. Institutional, Educational, and Diversity Committee – Carrie Payne – Faculty, Staff and Students have been invited to 40-50 diversity events university-wide. Many people can find a sense of community in online environment. Mental Health is very important (equity) and comes up every day. Idea with coming up with a more streamline communication strategic plan and making a goal for faculty and staff to attend. How to

prioritize these things. SPC has 4 faculty members and quite a few staff members and two students. Need solid faculty training on diversity – includes race, gender, socioeconomic status, health status and more. Need to address LGBTQ disparity as well as financial disparity. H&SS created a statement on institutionalized racism – it was very well received. FAS Chats have very low attendance and students are disappointed and upset about it – how do we prioritize this? Last-minute meetings are unreasonable for people have outside obligations. Civic and Community Engagement Class are working on a number of community projects. John Champagne created an anti-racism reading group which will continue to next semester. Address elitism and higher education.

- f. Research – Joshua Shaw – Reviewing sabbatical applications – had a meeting a little over month ago and put recommendations in. Others will be dealt with in Spring Semester regarding awards.
 - g. Scholarships and Awards – Joel Hunt – Just met with Student Leadership and Involvement.
 - h. Student Life – Phil Stuczynski – Not Present
 - i. Undergraduate Studies – Sam Nutile – Working on a statement on good writing. Met with Terri and Emily in ACPC to talk about Gen Ed requirements – revise Gen Ed checklist and make it specific to programs. Appoint a Gen Ed coordinator in each department that can answer questions for advising. Working on revision of first-year seminar – put together an Ad-Hoc Committee with Student Life.
 - j. Graduate Affairs – Ken Louie – Met in October and worked on standing charge – review curricular proposals and for new program. Making good progress and will send out survey online. Asked to develop a strategy for managing the growth of graduate programs – reach out to school directors to inquire about strategies. Already received some feedback and once they have more, will put together a rough draft. Develop a procedure for nominating two reps from Behrend for Graduate Council for University. Committee is now discussing what criteria needs to be.
 - k. Part-Time?
- IX. Old Business
- X. New Business
- a. First Year Seminar/Belonging at Behrend Charges for Student Life and Undergraduate Studies
- XI. Adjournment – Lisa Jo Elliott and Joshua Shaw.