

FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING

Friday, February 19, 2021

3:00 pm via Zoom

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

- I. Call to Order – Emily Cassano, Faculty Senate Chair
- II. Approval of previous minutes from Faculty Council Meeting
 - a. Lisa Elliot and Carol Putman
- III. Ralph Ford, Chancellor
 - a. The campus is open again, welcome back. Good to see the campus coming back to life.
 - b. Covid testing
 - i. 76% students underwent pre-arrival testing, 11% are awaiting results, 11% are non-compliant and are being contacted, 2% are exempt
 - ii. 100% of the residence halls are compliant
 - iii. For fully remote students 32% are tested, 16% are awaiting results, 50% are not testing
 - iv. After arriving, back to campus testing will begin, 2177 tests over 3 days
 - v. Surveillance testing will resume, increasing the amount of testing to 2% of the population per day
 - c. Vaccines
 - i. The state of PA determines vaccine eligibility
 - ii. Work with your health provider
 - iii. The University is not a distribution point
 - iv. PA is in the lower 1/3 of states for distribution
 - v. Erie county lags behind in the state. You may send an email to your state legislator
 - d. We are resuming NCAA Division III athletic competitions with limitation
 - e. The Zoom event with the mother of Trevon Martin was Zoom-bombed. Security was increased for the event with Patrisse Cullors, the founder of BLM, and there were no Zoom issues.
 - f. There will be an announcement soon from the University concerning Summer and Fall courses. Summer is expected to be mixed mode, while fall is expected to be a regular schedule.
 - g. Mary Ellen Madigan will be retiring soon and will be missed. A search for her replacement will begin soon.
- IV. Pam Silver, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs
 - a. Alternative grades are approved for use in the spring semester. Please be sure to understand the effects of using alternative grades before advising students.
 - b. Planning is underway for summer. We will be doing PASS again. We are resuming ___WISE but will be renaming it.
 - c. Parental Leave Policy
 - i. The OVP guidelines were confusing, no distinction was made between tenure and non-tenure, parent being birth parent or partner, and adoption or birth
 - ii. 6 weeks of FMLA
 - iii. Both parents have an option for the rest of the semester. Either take the semester off without pay or take the semester off with pay but having non-teaching duties.
 - iv. The policy has been in place for years, now has equity across the campuses.

- v. A link is provided in the chat, the information will be loaded into the Intranet
 - vi. For non-parental leave, the new policy is defined in the chat link.
 - vii. A faculty member asked if we could have a template of what is included in non-teaching duties. PS – Yes, the expectations need to be clear at the start of the leave
 - d. Strategic Plan
 - i. They have incorporated suggestions and new ideas from faculty and others, such as First year experience for students, diversity, equity, and inclusivity.
 - ii. It is an evolving policy, a living document.
- V. Matthew Swinarski gave updates from the last Senate meeting
- a. Provost Jones discussed budgets, capital investments
 - b. The graduate school shared enrollment numbers
 - c. The University Planning committee gave enrollment numbers
 - d. The Barnes and Noble First Day Complete is going to pilot a program to have students pay a flat rate for books. They shared a report that lists the cost comparisons.
 - e. The benefits committee reported on the topics of childcare and healthcare plan comparisons.
 - f. The faculty affairs committee reported that they are looking at all assessments, including SRTE's, and will issue a report
- VI. Brian Boscaljon, Faculty Affairs Committee
- a. Best practices are being pulled together for reviewing tenure tract
 - b. Looking at creating a rubric for consistency
 - c. Compiling results from last semester's survey, will issue a report
 - d. Workloads are being looked at
- VII. Josh Shaw, Research Committee
- a. Received nominations undergraduate research award
 - b. Ivor share information with them on faculty's impediments to research
 - c. Will be evaluating faculty research award
- VIII. Philip Stuczinski, Student Life Committee
- a. Input was given to the SGA, C Butler and other leaders, for their survey
 - b. Results will come out soon
- IX. Ken __, Graduate Affairs Committee
- a. A formal procedure was developed for faculty to present proposals for new courses whereby faculty can track and record approvals
 - b. The committee is to develop a long term strategy for graduate programs. The school of business gave feedback as they have the largest number of graduate students. They will develop a set of recommendations.
 - c. They are developing a formal procedure for electing 2 people to University level council
- X. Joel Hunt, Scholarship and Awards
- a. They have reviewed and will be interviewing and selecting for the awards nominations
- XI. Old Business
- a. Rodney Troester, First year seminar and engagement. This spring a task force was formed from various groups to look into research outside and inside of Behrend. They will pull together best practices for all and first year Behrend students for both seminar

and engagement. It should be ready by the end of the semester.

- b. Emily Cassano initiated a discussion as to the best method to share the Parental Leave information. It was decided to share it at a Town Hall meeting.
- XII. No new business
- XIII. Motion to adjourn
- a. Lisa Jo and Matthew Swinarski