

Norfolk Campus Senate Meeting

3/16/21

Attending: Julia Arnold, Deborah Brown, Sarah DiCalogero, Danetta Evans, Judy Gill (Chair), Richard Gill, Leah Hagedorn, Frank Hendrick, Christopher McCammon (Secretary), Laura McIntyre, Shannon Ponack, Sylvia Ross, Peter Shaw, Carmelita Williams.

J. Gill called the meeting to order and introduced the items on the agenda.
-Minutes from previous meetings will be sent out in time for review at April meeting.

I. J. Gill update from College Senate Meeting

- Chairs met with Woodhouse and Constant before meeting. Constant said she's working very hard to get interim positions filled – especially VP positions. Both said they're aware of ventilation problems. Deans have been instructed to meet and make scheduling decisions. They want many classes with, perhaps, 12 in class and 12 out. There was discussion of clearly designating classes so that students know what they're signing up for. Senators spoke about the need for an equity study. It seems like there is never a good time to consider faculty raises. Constant says she will promote a study when she is more confident that funds will be there to support raises.
- In the actual meeting, Constant discussed the need for technological improvements to allow for a safe return to classes. The plan is still 25% in person this summer, up to 50% in the fall.
- A cohort from Tesla Energy will start soon in relation to training for solar installation.
- There's a new safety and security committee, with a security camera installation committee. A faculty member is needed for the security camera implementation committee.
- Everyone should have gotten a presidential evaluation form from the VCCS. Deans are currently allowed to choose their own evaluators.
- A diversity climate survey is coming out for students and faculty.
- If you have certain SIS privileges, they will be reviewed in March.
- The supposedly 10-week summer schedule goes 11-weeks due to Monday holidays.
- The adjunct evaluation and growth plan has been approved by the President and VP.

II. S. DiCalogero reports on PC meeting

- The current process for students to apply to TCC is labor-intensive for students, especially compared with the process at for-profit schools. The new process requires more labor from TCC staff. The goal is to move toward the possibility of an "Enroll in a Day" timeline.
- J. Gill asks if students cannot complete enrollment without seeing an advisor? M. Pollard indicated that the desire is to have faculty help more with the choice of classes than enrollment itself. Students will be given a link to contact an advisor, but will not be required to meet with an advisor before enrollment.

III. J. Gill update on reopening plan

- We're at 18% on campus now, so the move to 25% this summer won't be a stretch.
- On campus means "some campus presence".
- Faculty will not be pressured to teach online. Deans will contact faculty to see who is willing to teach on campus.

- L. Hagedorn suggested that we move to language about safety instead of being “comfortable” teaching online. S. DiCalogero recommended we stick with binary language without asking for justification.
- S. Ponack pointed out that other schools have had a problem with students not staying committed to face-to-face instruction. This would seem to defeat the purpose of in-person classes, especially given the difficulties of maintaining a Zoom presence.
- S. DiCalogero pointed out that students may very well want to keep an online synchronous option. Administration really wants faculty to be willing to teach “hi-flex” – i.e. students both in person and on Zoom.

IV. Report from DLTC

- The strategic plan has been presented to the board.
- There will be refresher for faculty required every other year. Faculty would be permitted to choose where they need review, Canvas, Zoom, etc.

V. New Business/Discussion

- New “accessible to all” bathrooms are now available with signage indicating their presence.
- Workforce development and academic cooperation will be increased soon, so that students can move more easily from one to the other.
- The Tesla Energy students will start 3/29. J. Gill asked if the program is open to the public? It’s not known at this point.
- R. Gill expressed a desire to move forward with a more rigorous process of evaluation for deans. Faculty should be involved. S. DiCalogero: as mentioned before, faculty are involved, but only at Dean’s choice. D S. DiCalogero mentioned that we should review the most recent policy for dean review. R. Gill moves that we create a committee to investigate the process of evaluation for deans. L. Hagedorn seconds. S. DiCalogero: do we want to ask for a definition of sampling? “That the college senate create a committee to look into the faculty evaluation of deans.” The central question is: How is the faculty sampling selected? Are they handpicked by deans? The motion passes 5-0
- Nominations for college-wide senate will be in April
- Meeting is adjourned at 2:01