



## Plenary Session

April 15, 2020 – Zoom – 3:00 pm

### DRAFT MINUTES

Present:

- Alex Beebe
- Alison Henry
- Amanda Donaldson
- Ananthasekar Ponnambalam
- Beth Rugan Shepard
- Brenda Woodmansee
- Bret Webb
- Bob Sweeney
- Cathy Cooper
- Charlene Myers
- Charles Harmon
- Chimene Gecewicz
- Christina Lindeman
- Christopher Raczkowski
- Colleen Lynch
- David Turnipseed
- David Weber
- Dawn McKinney
- Delwar Hossain
- Diane Gibbs
- Donna Copeland
- Drew Lewis
- Edmund Spencer
- Elizabeth VandeWaa
- Ellen Broach
- Ellen Madden
- Jamie Adams
- Jason Rinehart
- Jeanette Manders
- John Cleary
- Jonathan Powell
- Jonathan Rayner
- John Halbrooks
- Kim Zlomke
- Kimberly Jordan
- Laura Moore
- Laura Vrana
- Lauren Brannan
- Matthew Reichert (William Reichert)
- Mike Lin
- Mitchell Woltring
- Natalie Gassman
- Nicholas Gossett
- Nicole Amare
- Patricia Mark
- Patrick Cesarini
- Robert Cloutier
- Sachin Pai
- Sandy Wingate
- Sarah Koon-Magnin
- Sarah Sayner
- Scott Sittig
- Shanda Scott
- Sharon Pelekanos
- Stephen Young
- Susan McCready
- Tara Thompson
- Debra Swanzy
- Tracy O'Connor
- Trey Lemley
- Valerie Bryan
- Ying Huang

- Call to Order: 3:00 pm
- Approval of Minutes: MMSA
- Approval of Agenda: MMSA
- President's Report

At the March plenary meeting – we needed to find a way for faculty to support one another during this crazy situation. We created Covid to Covid faculty support.

There has not been much information from the Pandemic Team. Self-quarantine measures have been successful. One nice bit of news: there are teams working together on campus with our 3-D printers to create masks to supply our hospitals.

#### Council of Academic Deans Meeting

This morning at CAD there was a long discussion about the pass/fail option being extended to graduate students. The final policy is as follows:

- It will be at discretion of programs to make their decisions.
- To change one's grade, they'll have to submit a memo that the Graduate School would approve.

Plans for Fall are unsure: if we are back on campus, how are we to manage social distancing? We really don't have much time to plan.

Parking on football day: 10/22 is a Thursday, and an evening game will be broadcast on ESPN. From the discussion, it looks like we will keep the library open. Joel Erdman is committed to working around Thursday evening classes.

Proposal to make first time freshman to live on campus. Some exceptions: married, with children, veterans. Nicole Carr said studies show students are more successful if they live on campus.

#### April ExComm/Admin Meeting

The financial situation doesn't look good: there will probably be a dip in enrollment in the Fall. One of the leading indicators for Fall enrollment is housing, and no one is putting down housing deposits now.

- Monthly ExComm/Admin meetings will continue through the summer.
- Interviews for the position of VP of Enrollment position will start on Friday.
- A point was made at ExComm/Admin that it is important for faculty to be represented in all places where important decisions are being made.
  - Senators requested that the list of people who serve on the President's Council be stipulated. Faculty need to be represented. The Faculty Senate President has been asked to participate with the President's Council. It would be helpful

if the FS President could be a permanent member, since there is an expectation of shared governance between faculty and administration.

- Committee Reports
  - Evaluation (Nick Gossett) – The Faculty Survey will be available in the next several weeks. Every faculty member will get the same survey, but it will be done by college. All faculty are included: fulltime, part-time, adjunct. The committee next term will take the results. The survey should be open 3-4 weeks. The link won't be in the Daily Digest but will come straight to your email.
  - Academic and Mentoring (Tracy O'Connor) – For the past 2 years, O'Connor has worked with the Provost for a mentoring fandango to provide lunch and a small “thank you” for mentors.
- Student Perceptions of Instruction
  - Guest: Dr. Angela Coleman, Asso VP of Institutional Effectiveness and Accreditation

McCready: Concerning the SPI, this semester the CAD is committed to “holding the faculty harmless,” according to the Provost, due to the transition from traditional to online classes. The purpose of the SPI this semester is to give feedback on what went well and what went less well. The SPI will NOT be used to evaluate faculty – not for promotion or tenure. Faculty will not be asked to put results in any type of file. The Deans felt that students need a chance to sound off and get some things off their chest. *So SPI is a method for students to let us know how they're feeling.*

Coleman: She thanked the faculty for rising to the challenge for educating students. The transition to online instruction to reduce the spread of Covid is a hurdle we overcame. So we won't be conducting traditional survey instruments: instead, we are collecting thoughts from students. The results won't be for evaluation. If you receive good comments, then you are encouraged to include them in your P&T/promotion materials. Data will only be recorded in aggregate with no personal identifying information for student or faculty.

In response to a question, Coleman said evaluations in general won't count for evaluation. In particular, she said “I have no reason to believe this doesn't include faculty teaching classes that are 100% online already.” In response, another Senator replied that this wasn't clear from personal conversations with Administration.

A discussion followed. (John Cleary made the edits/changes to the SPI as suggestions for changes were being made.)

- Senator recommended a distinction be made between “remote instruction” and online instruction. There were concerns that online learning needed to be carefully defined.
- Another Senator wanted a question to be included in the SPI asking the student if their life situation changed after the “stay at home” order.
- Senators expressed the consensus that more technology questions needed to be added.
  - Primary question: do our students have access to internet?

- Faculty need to emphasize that there are technology gaps that are exacerbating inequalities in our students.

McCready asked for a motion be made to accept the changes: MMSA, so the motion carried. She said the document would remain in Google Docs for making comments, but not editing. McCready then thanked everyone for their work during the year: caucus leaders, ExComm, in particular. She felt the Senate accomplished much this year in terms of shared governance and transparency.

- Election of Officers, Committee Chairs

Cleary proposed a slate of officers. He encouraged nominations from the floor. None were made. McCready asked for a motion to accept this slate by acclamation, with silence being “yes.” MMSA. The Slate passed.

- Other

Adjournment: MMSA 4:26pm