

Faculty Senate Meeting

June 15, 2021

12:00 to 1:00

Virtual Meeting

Minutes

12:00 – 12:05 Welcome and Approval of minutes from May meeting

Assuming that minutes were approved – I was 4 minutes late.

12:05 – 12:10 President Update – Leadership course, SP, return to campus, Thank you

Joshua Abzug publicly thanked people for their service as part of the Faculty Senate.

An official email recapping the end of year will be sent out by Josh.

New Senate Faculty members based on the votes are:

Dental: Ina Griffin, Qoot Alkubaizi

SOM: Erik Strauss, Nancy Hardy

SSW: Jay Unick

Part Time: Suzanee Burgee

The Faculty Senate Leadership:

Joshua Abzug will remain as President

Sonisay is the new Vice President

Terry Shaw is the new Secretary

Concerns or comments about the return to campus –

Lori recognized the value of the campus messaging for faculty and staff around the return to campus.

We will be in person in September

12:10 – 12:25 Update from Drs. Jarrell/Ward

Dr. Ward gave an overview.

Dr. Ward thanked those rotating off the Senate and expressed his appreciation to everyone participating.

The Governor has lifted the executive order around the state of emergency in MD on July 1, 2021. There is a discussion internally around what this means for the UMB campus. Though the University is a state entity, we are located within the jurisdiction of Baltimore City. Additional guidance will be provided.

As of right now the University System will require vaccinations by mid-August. As an institution UMB has around 80% of faculty and staff vaccinated.

Strategic planning process – on track to adopt a plan by June 30, 2021. Dr. Ward thanked everyone who participated in the process.

Joshua Abzug:

Dr. Ward: The initial strategic planning process involved an extensive process of town halls and feedback. That plan ended up showing that there were certain base needs, HR, how we treat our people, family friendliness that needed to be addressed before we could look outward to where we could be. The first plan was the base that we are building upon. The second plan expanded that process and the plan looked outward more.

Dr. Ward thanked us and wished everyone a good summer.

- 12:25 – 12:30 Elections Update – Deb Cartee/Oksana Mishler
- 12:30 – 12:55 Faculty Senate Committee and Taskforce Updates

Committees:

Campus Safety, Security, & Environment

Had a meeting with the Chief of Police – Tom Abrams & Vincent Conroy - this is occurring every 6 weeks. There are good discussions. There is real interest and possibility of change. One of the things we hear is that change would be expensive, but we make the point that Safety is important and is necessary in recruiting and keeping quality faculty, staff and students.

Josua Abzug – in the past the faculty Senate on this committee has maintained a list of safety issues that were continually brought up during the monthly meetings. At the end of the year this list could then be shared with University leadership.

Tom Abrams – the committee is maintaining a clear list of issues that the committee feel is important.

There is a survey that should be coming out and Tom encourages us all to take that survey and let others know as well.

Campus and Community Engagement

Staff senate and leadership would like to do the UMB has talent event again around the Winter Holidays. Focus on this will begin again in September.

Lori Edwards – other community engagement initiatives

The University is moving forward with Collaboratory database for community based/community engagement activities that should be useful.

Advocacy

Susan Antol: We might consider the changes around telework and masking and what the impacts of these policies impact staff, faculty and students. Thoughts on how we reopen are welcomed – email Susan Antol. This is a group at CUSF, but meetings have been suspended over the summer.

Joshua Abzug: It would be good to look at how faculty are reacting and adjusting.

Research, Awards, and Surveys

Oksana Mishler – Founders Week award nominations are still open (closes by the end of the week 6/18). The committee will be reviewing nominations today. As of 6/16 one nomination has been received.

Human Resources: Amy Daniels - The telework policy has been published. We have not been actively engaged over the last few months. Next year we would like to set up a survey to understand what the HR concerns are of the faculty senate. This would be a bit of a needs assessment of the faculty senate so the committee will be productive and fruitful.

Joshua Abzug – hiring personnel with a competitive salary is a concern especially for faculty who receive short term grants.

The telework policy is for staff only and there has been some concerns around the fact that there is a different structure between faculty/staff. HR policies are made for staff and not faculty. This leads to challenging interactions with staff.

Joshua Abzug stated that there has been discussions with Dr. Jarrell – where there was a push that faculty would not be included in the telework policy. This oversight should be with their Direct Supervisor.

Task Forces:

Improve Long Term Vision for the Senate – Terry Shaw – nothing new to report

Teaching during COVID/IPE – Tom Abrams – recommends switching focus from COVID to innovation.

COVID - has not met. We might consider the changes around telework and masking and what the impacts of these policies impact staff, faculty and students. Thoughts on how we reopen are welcomed – email Susan Antol. This is a group at CUSF, but meetings have been suspended over the summer.

Experiential Learning has not been meeting recently – actually having people in place working will help understand what is effective. The experiential learning consists of representatives from all the schools and there is variation between how each school addresses these issues.

CUSF - Susan Antol – CUSF is not meeting this summer – but there was some push back on the Academic Integrity and has become very detailed. This has been moved to the system level.

Badging/Scaffolding has been discussed on CUSF. Karen Clark is on a workgroup working on the concept and how it might interact with our campus. Karen told a story about how an online education class taken a few years ago led to a recent notice that she had earned a badge. Quality Learning/Credly have teamed up to provide this badging.

- 12:55 - 1:00 New Business

Joshua – publicly thanked everyone.

Faculty Senate meetings are open to all faculty. Joshua invited all current/past Senators to attend so that we can share lunch.

Again thanked Oksana and Deb.

Thanked Isabel and Mike Woolley.

- 1:00 Adjourn