Minutes of Faculty Senate Council Meeting
March 29, 2021

Attending: Vijay Ramani, Timothy McBride, Bruce Carlson, Amy Eyler, Derek Hoeferlin, Bess Marshall, Stephen Nowlis, Rosas Guillermo, Adam Rosenzweig, Douglas Schuerer, Carla Siegfried, Victoria Thomas Stephanie Kirk, Renee Van Stavern

Ex-Officio: Andrew Martin, Chancellor; Beverly Wendland, Provost; Leila Sadat.

Guests: Jeneane Braden, Jennifer Lodge, Bradley Evanoff, Diana Gray

Meeting called to order at 2:31 pm

1. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes – Vijay Ramani, Chair, Faculty Senate Council

Minutes approved as amended.

2. Chancellor’s Report—Andrew Martin, Chancellor

The Chancellor reported that we have reached the busiest part of an academic year. In terms of the pandemic, we are seeing the light at the end of tunnel.

The Chancellor reported two administrative appointments: the next Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Anna Gonzalez, who joins us July 1st from Harvey Mudd College, with 25 years of experience in higher education and other colleges, after a comprehensive search. The Chancellor expressed his gratitude to Rob Wild for his work in the interim post, and for spending an extreme amount of time with parents. In a second appointment, Julie Flory, who has been serving as Interim Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs and done an extraordinary job, will become the Vice Chancellor for Marketing and Communications as of April 1.

The Chancellor reported on the progress on MyDay, reporting that the team working on this important transition has stepped up. He believes we are good to go, with a launch on HR and Finance on July 1. This will change the workflow of faculty members. MyDay Student and Student Sunrise changes will follow later.

The Chancellor thanked the Provost for her work on the Strategic Planning process and looks forward to working from it.

On the vaccine, the Chancellor reported that the good news is that on March 17th we entered phase 2.

The Chancellor then took questions and answers.

Q: What is the vaccination rate on campus?
A: Jennifer Lodge answered: 70%

Q: When is the Danforth rollout of MyDay?
A: There will be blackout dates when faculty have less access to data on research activities, less interface to see grants.

Q: Any updates to coming back in fall?
A: There is still considerable uncertainty about the fall. Our intention is we will return to pre-pandemic, and we will deliver communications to students. We are concerned that populations of students will not be able to show up; some programs having trouble getting VISAs. Chair Ramani
reported that some programs having troubles getting VISAs; program with large number of students coming from China will be effective.

Q: What is recommendation for faculty to return to campus?
A: Our goal is to get faculty and staff to campus when safe, since the majority of instruction will be in person. Student affairs will have to plan ahead of time. No one will come back to campus with less than thirty days’ notice.

Q: Will vaccine be required?
A: This is under discussion. Other campuses required; many required flu vaccine.

3. Report of the Chair – Vijay Ramani, Chair

The Chair’s report was short. Chair Ramani reported that there has been work on the TRAP representation on the FSC, and on search committees. We are doing our best to make this work, working with the Provost.

4. Outside Professional Activities Policy -- Jeneane Braden, Asst. Vice Chancellor for Research Integrity and Ethics; Jennifer Lodge, Vice Chancellor for Research; David T. Blasingame Professor, Molecular Microbiology Sr. Associate Dean for Research, School of Medicine

A PowerPoint presentation was presented (available on Senate website). This is a proposed policy on outside activities. There is a great interest from the federal government about foreign influence in research. Our campus currently does not have a policy; we need to implement one.

Q&A:
Q: On conflict-of-interest committee, how will cases be managed?
A: There will be little difference from how it is now handled; goes to schools;

Q: On the current infrastructure, we always use the same forms?
A: Yes, all on one form.

Q: Is the concern universal or narrower?
A: Some schools more concerned. Chair Ramani added: we need to have this as a safety net – really helps. Seems a very important point.

5. Faculty and Staff Mental Health during COVID -- Bradley Evanoff, Richard A. and Elizabeth Henby Sutter Professor of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Assistant Dean for Clinical and Translational Research, Director, Division of General Medical Sciences

Professor Evanoff presented a PowerPoint (available on the Senate website).

Q&A:
Q: Did you disaggregate by gender?
A: Effects on women in academic stem fields, more women responding 68%/32%. Among the younger faculty, of the respondents, women were younger, women were more likely to be racially diverse and more women with lower incomes (58%) with women children at home, all creating a stress factor. Also, there were more women living alone. We did not find terrible measures of well-being, but some anxiety in women, some depression, work exhaustion.
Q: Persons on furlough had higher household incomes?
A: Men reported more level financial stress; men reported men reported interfering.

6. Other Business – Vijay Ramani, Chair

Chair Ramani reported in the University searches it was noted that TRAP was not included. He reached out to the Provost on this, and the policy will be to include them in the future. The administration is very receptive. The Provost added that the TRAP faculty are key members, welcomed and encouraged.

Q: Can we have a formal policy?
A: We would prefer demonstrating the effectiveness of this, trying to give this a shot. If outcomes are not working then we could do something more policy oriented. The big committees are run by Chancellor and Provost, so commitment helps. We have been doing it.

7. Executive Session

Executive Session called at 4:04 p.m. No actions were taken during the Executive Session.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Timothy McBride, Secretary