

Faculty Senate Zoom Meeting Minutes 9/18/20

Meeting comes to order at 12:46

1. Approval of Minutes from May Retreat 2020

Minutes approved.

2. Election of At-large Members

Nominations: Norma Boakes, Jack Lewis. Both elected.

3. Election of Standing Committee Vice Chairs

Academic Policies and Procedures: Robin Hernandez-Mekonnen nominated and elected.

Academic Programs and Planning : Michael Law nominated and elected.

Administration and Finance: Christy Goodnight nominated and elected.

General Studies: Elma Kaiser nominated and elected.

Information and Technology and Media Services: Ted Alter nominated and elected.

Library: Eric Jeitner nominated and elected.

Research and Professional Development: Justin Ostrofsky nominated and elected.

Student Affairs: Arleen Gonzalez nominated and elected.

4. Presidential Task Force on Stockton University Police Department and Campus Safety

President Kesselman is working on this.

5. Faculty Visa Task Force

A document has been created outlining the current policy and the Task Force will continue to work with the administration on this issue. Professor Ramya Vijaya is taking over as a co-chair of the Task Force, replacing Professor Arleen Gonzalez.

6. COVID Cases Update

The website is being updated on a daily basis. HR is still receiving requests for work modification, which are available on the HR website. HR is following federal guidelines. If a student is unable to attend class because of illness, we are applying our existing policy. Students are expected to keep up with their courses. Any student who has tested positive and been on campus, go through the contact-tracing process. Managers and administrators can also apply to work from home and the process is the same as for others. For the spring semester, we are going to have Plan A – assuming a normal semester, and Plan B – if we still need to limit in-person courses.

7. Q&A with Interim Provost McDonald

8. Informational Items

Middle States

It is important to have representation from across campus in this process. By the end of the month we want to be able to let people know if you have been selected for a working group.

We have asked for a half-year delay given the pandemic but we haven't asked to go into another cycle.

Education Department Finalizes New Rule on Campus Free Speech

Stockton's Student Success Services

Need for more volunteer mentors.

9. Other and New Business

2:00: move to closed session

Motion 1 passed (24-1): Senate urge Sr. Management to run a national search for the Provost to support the University's commitment to diversity and a change in Campus Culture, in a reasonable time subject to COVID19 restrictions, to begin no later than Fall 2022. Further, Senate urges the administration to not unilaterally change the Interim to Permanent Provost before the national search is concluded.

Motion 2 passed (17-5): The Faculty Senate wishes to express their deep concern about the content of the email sent by Interim Provost McDonald to all faculty and staff on September 4, 2020. Substantial parts of that email matched a statement written by the president of Trinity College, yet the email lacked any formal or informal acknowledgement of that. This is troubling considering the Interim Provost's responsibility as the university's Chief Academic Officer and the person who oversees the university's Academic Honesty Activities. The Senate urges the Cabinet to acknowledge and investigate this act committed by Interim Provost McDonald and to take appropriate action.

Motion 3 passed (25-1): The Faculty Senate expresses concern and solidarity for all individuals working in person at Stockton University. We urge Human Resources and all administrators to protect human life by helping to reduce density on campus, specifically by considering remote work the most appropriate way for everyone to work during the COVID-19 pandemic, wherever possible. By reducing the density of individuals on campus, especially those most at risk of becoming ill with COVID-19, we better protect essential employees who must be on-campus. We also ask that at-risk individuals be protected by allowing them to work from home, remotely whenever possible.

Meeting adjourns at 3:23