

Senate  
College of Liberal Arts  
Zoom  
May 11, 2020  
2:30–4:00

## MINUTES

### 1. Approval of Agenda

Approved unanimously at 2:30pm

### 2. Approval of Minutes from October 2019

Approved unanimously at 2:34pm

### 3. Dean's Report (David Terkla)

#### a. Budget

- i. For once in UMass system, UMB “top of the heap”: surplus where other campuses have deficit; expect our budget to be balanced this year
- ii. However, next year unclear; task forces now meeting to plan
- iii. Worst case is we would have to deal with a 20% budget cut; hopefully not, but still waiting on state, and so we have to plan for worst-case scenario
- iv. E-mail going out in next day to associate and continuing-contract lecturers saying they do not currently have a fall appointment

#### b. Fall planning

- i. Courses currently being divided into five categories, from 1 (can go virtual with no trouble) to 5 (course would have to be canceled)
- ii. That information useful for balancing possible campus population issues

#### c. Questions

- i. Range of options? Delayed start, no fall semester? DT: Oct start possible, ideally with Sept for faculty prep; canceling fall probably too extreme fiscally
- ii. When will administration decide? DT: late June and mid-July both floated as dates; need to hear from the state; “drop-dead” date unclear
- iii. Any conversation about relaxing class size cutoff? DT: On table, but nothing discussed; provost reluctant to change that
- iv. Current classroom assignments seem problematic? DT: Assignments currently just “triage”; what to do with large-enrollment in particular an issue that needs to be addressed
- v. Institutional memory comment—problems with 2016 cuts
- vi. 1) What do you mean about possibility of “programmatic cuts”? 2) What about student needs, both in terms of health and equipment? DT: 1) Not departments being cut, most likely, but things like center and institutes could be; 2) Try UR-BEST; and if you need help, with individual students, send to Anna Frega or the dean

**4. Moderator's Report (Sarah Hamblin)**

- a. Welcome to new senators
- b. Senate appointments and committees for AY20-21
  - i. Senate constitution (except Psychology and WGSS, which Moderator will fill at a later date) passed unanimously at 3:20pm
  - ii. Committees constitution (except one position on AAC, which Moderator will fill at a later date) passed unanimously at 3:25pm
    - 1. Academic Affairs committee
    - 2. Majors, Honors, and Special Programs
    - 3. Standards and Credits
    - 4. Budget and Planning Review
    - 5. College Personnel Committee (appointed by Dean Terkla)

**5. Proposal from Majors, Honors, and Special Programs**

- a. Sociology: Changing GPA prerequisite for declaring majors
- b. Passed unanimously at 3:26pm

**6. Proposal from Academic Affairs Committee**

- a. Changes to Existing Courses: THART 260L (Improvisation and Comedy)
- b. Passed unanimously at 3:28pm

**7. COVID-19 Check-in**

- a. Dean said tenure delays or promotion without raise are not concerns at present
- b. Range of task forces that dean mentioned: research, tech...
- c. CLA faculty rep to Academic Continuity Planning Subcommittee will be Jeff Melnick of American Studies—what do we want to ask him to take up?
  - i. Moderator recaps issues that have already come up:
    - 1. Support around large lectures and tracking students
    - 2. Funding for student support, including tech
    - 3. Crafting some kind of template of best practices for faculty
    - 4. Do *not* want a USC-style, hybrid, double-work solution
  - ii. Opening the floor to other senators:
    - 1. 1) concern about large-lecture asynchronous issue; 2) difference in task forces—one Jeff is on versus union one that admin won't constitute; Moderator will e-mail to get some clarity
    - 2. 1) Students overwhelmed with e-mail so missing info; need to think critically about communication from both admin and faculty; 2) protective gear for faculty and staff who will be on campus?
    - 3. Requirement of students having camera? Cannot require this, but we can explore how students understand and respect norms and responsibilities
    - 4. Student perspective requires compassion; need student input into the fall transition Moderator: Students polled by CLA about online experience; faculty will be as well
    - 5. Issues of privacy? In terms of cameras, also platforms?

**8. New Business**

N/A

**9. Adjourn**

Approved unanimously at 4:03pm