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University Senate Minutes

March 5, 2021, 2:00-3:15, Zoom

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2:00-2:30

1. Approval of agenda-**Motioned, Approved**
2. Introduction of visitors -Will Riddell, Carmen McDonald
3. Approval of minutes from February meeting (attached)-**Motioned, Approved**
4. President's report
   i. COVID-19 updates:

   President sent email saying we would back in the fall.

   Comment-Gov. Murphy's Executive order only includes K-12 for vaccinations. Do you know if the university is working to have higher education included?

   A-The universities tried to advocate for this, but the governor did not include higher ed at this point

      1. Testing and reporting
      2. Vaccinations

   i. Promotion for Lecturers

   If you have 5 years of FT teaching experience, you may apply. If you have fewer than 5 years but have other experience, you may apply early and it goes to the Dean.

   Comments-Deans are hesitant to include adjunct teaching. However, people should discuss this with their dean.

   Departments need to have criteria for their Lecturers. This is the best way to ensure there are clear expectations.

   ii. Promotion for Professional Staff

   This is now drafted, and it will go to the Provost's Office. There is a working group and Senate Exec working on this

iii. University of the Future
https://sites.rowan.edu/president/_docs/university-of- the-future-public-release-2-16.pdf

There are good things and this, but also areas of concern such as online education.

iv. Udacity, statistics.com, expedited curriculum process

Expedited curriculum process for market demand and vocational programs. There are rushed proposals for E-Sports Management, this was passed by the Board of Trustees, even though most of the courses have not been developed.

Q- Will we see the financial modeling to show how Udacity will bring in revenue? Or the market research that shows that there is room for more online education, and if so, in which arenas?

A-We will be asking the Provost's office when we meet with him next week

Remote Education-Dr. Harvey and McElwee did listening sessions about needs and what worked/did not. There is not a firm decision for Fall 2021. There will be a future vision for remote education, but we are unsure of how it will look. There is a general consensus that PPO doesn't work well

Q-Are there new fees for employee tuition?

A-Not a new fee, but will billed differently

v. Retrenchments

3 AFT professional staff in different departments have been notified of retrenchment. 180 days notice was given.

AFT is doing fact finding to determine what is going on and trying to do everything we can to save their jobs.

Q-So the "no layoffs" was not true? How is this continuously happening to Prof Staff?

A-No, it was not true. AFT General Counsel said the administrations promise of layoff's is non-binding. Other universities in the state, such as William Paterson are laying off even more.

2:30-3:10

5. Update on Budget (Chris Simons)

This year's budget is very strong, we should have a surplus. The CARES 2 package in the end of December was an infusion. The state budget looks good as well.

One worry was enrollment. The applications were down 35% in December. Now applications are down 25% and we are closing the gap. There are some departments and programs that are down and at risk (Math, Physics, etc.)

6. Smarthinking tutoring (Erin Hannah and Laura Repsher)

   This was accidently put in Canvas ahead of schedule.

   Smarthinking is meant to be a supplement to peer tutoring. We are limited to what subjects we can offer. This will be embedded into Canvas shells, if you do not want this to be accessible to your students, you can uncheck the box and limit availability. Faculty can refer individual students or their whole course to tutoring.

   Comment- Please keep in mind that the Rowan Writing Center is open and offering a full spectrum of virtual writing consultation services. Writing Center peer tutors are highly trained and understand the Rowan context, and Rowan students get personalized and high quality writing support. Please refer your students to our Writing Center rather than Smart Thinking for help with their writing.

   Q- Erin, can you explain the Writing Center situation again? So students will be able to access this, but the university won't promote that component of SmartThinking?

   A-It will be available, but not promoted to students. We are working collaboratively with Celeste in the Writing Center

   Q- I logged in to it. It asked me to establish a token. I backed out. Was that due to its not actually being ready?

   A-Token is for use for a Smartphone or Tablet

   Q-Will smartthinking track courses they used it for? So we can see which courses might have more demand that we can maybe support with on campus tutoring

   A-It does tell you exactly what courses are seeking tutoring in.

   Q- I'm wondering what kind of data is being collected, who is going use the data, and how. Would IRB approval be needed?

   A-As of right now, we do not have any plans to use the data for anything.

   Q- Who OWNS the data? The student white boarding, etc.? Are sessions recorded?

A-Erin can check. The sessions are recorded.

Q- How can we guarantee that "tutoring" won't turn into "Assignment Completion"?

A-The tutors are trained not to do this.

Q-Dwelling on the data: How does Pearson use what they have archived?

A-Erin can check on this

Comment-Can the Tutoring Center help with messaging to clarify that Smarthinking different than other platforms

Q- Do they have a list of subjects? Or do they primarily cover the basics? IE- upper-level tutoring?

A-On their main page it has a listing of all courses. They cover both lower and upper-level courses.

Q-Why aren't we doing this ourselves and utilizing more peer students?

A-This is a supplement to peer tutoring. It will also cut down on turnaround time for students to be linked to tutoring.

7. Technology survey (Kim Poolos) https://forms.gle/gvfGmu7KHHfdAvs56

   Change has come out of the prior survey. The goal of this survey is to make see where there are other gaps. This is completely anonymous. Please share this with your departments. Please complete by 3/26/21

8. Curriculum report (attached)

   5601632-Motioned, Approved

   5612902-Motioned, Approved

   5583128-Motioned, Approved (1 Abstention)

   5583129-Motioned, Approved

   Q-Don't we already have this in DPEM?

   A-Similar in coursework, but we do not have the certificate. DPEM supports this.

   5583634-Motioned, Approved

5471566-Motioned, Approved

5606597-Motioned, Approved

3:10-3:15

9. New business

None

10. **Adjournment-2:59PM**