

University Senate Minutes

April 16, 2021, 2:00-3:15, Zoom

2:00-2:30

1. Approval of agenda-**Motioned, Seconded, Approved**
2. Introduction of visitors-**Joel Rudin, Jenn Gardner**
3. Approval of minutes from March meeting (attached)- **Motioned, Approved**
4. President's report

i) COVID-19 updates:

i. Testing and reporting

Things are still going well. Few students in isolations and quarantine. Vaccinated 2000 people last week. Large number of no-shows, so an email went out for walk-ups. Hundreds of students showed up, but messaging was challenging to those waiting.

Q-The University was sending out case notifications and they have stopped. Do we know why?

A-Not sure. Bill will check on progress of notification.

ii. Vaccinations

Vaccinated 2000 people last week. Large number of no-shows, so an email went out for walk-ups. Hundreds of students showed up, but messaging was challenging to those waiting.

iii) Retrenchments

3 Professional Staff being retrenched. This was not financial; this was a restructuring.

The President and the Provost stated there were will be no more retrenchments forthcoming.

Comment- State Council Attorney said that administration can't waive their lay off rights

iv) Promotion for Professional Staff

Professional Staff guarantees merit-based promotion through the statewide agreement. Members of the Senate and AFT have put together a draft of an MOA. It will now go to review and negotiated.

Q-Will we have workshops for professional staff to prepare their promotion packets?

A-We would need at least type of open forum on this. Bill will make a note.

Comment-We need workshops for all groups-professional staff, lecturers, and tenure track

Q- Will T&R revisions be in place for the fall?

A-We want to have them ready in the Summer

Comment- We also need to hold administration to their agreement for an equity survey of pay and benefits across all campus positions.

A-We have spoken to the Provost and he has spoken with Teri Drye and Melissa Wheatcroft and this is moving forward for the Fall. We will be looking at salaries and positions across all campuses.

v) Sustainability Master Plan

Sustainability Master Plan Committee recently reinstated. The administration supports this work.

vi) Student fees for add-ons in Canvas

These fees are surprising students. Many have not budgeted for these added expenses.

State law says all Fees must be approved through the Board of Trustees. However, the definition of fees is not clear.

Comment-Rowan Global tells professors that they need to get a proctoring service when they complain about cheating

2:30-3:10

5. Update on Budget (Chris Simons)

Rowan surplus of \$10 million for this year. 2021-2022 budget being developed.

Two Bonds last week: \$76 Million fossil park, \$24 Million for student center

\$40 Million in CARES funding. \$20 million must go to students, \$20 million can be used for our budget and can be pushed until 2023.

Freshmen applications are still down for Fall 2021. Still too soon to tell impact. Projecting 80% occupancy for housing in Fall 2021. Anything under 95% occupancy for some properties, will make us pay our private partners.

No increase for Tuition & Fees, but 10% discount will not remain from this year.

Money is budgeted to pay back raises and increase administrative costs by 4.5% for next year.

Families making less than 60K, will get free tuition after their grants and scholarships.

Q- We did not receive the negotiated 2% raise this year. Are we going to receive a 4% raise next year to catch up with the AFT negotiated salary schedule?

A-2% in April or June and 2% in July.

6. Transfer Credits from Study.com
(218 courses)

Chairs receive emails to evaluate transfer credits. The Study.com courses were concerning, and the Registrar's Office has never seen this many credits coming from Study.com.

The Registrar's Office sent out an email later asking the Chair's to hold off on evaluating the Study.com credits.

This seems to be coming from Rowan Global, as the Provost's Office was unaware of these transfer credits.

Comment- Study.com is a tiny (12 employee) Silicon Valley for-profit company

Q- Who is the boss of Global?

A-Dr. Jeff Hand

7. First reading: Toolkit for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in Faculty Recruitment, Hiring, and Retention (page 2)

Send this to your departments for feed and additions.

Comment- As a member of the RAIV board, I'd like them to cite their sources when they take direct quotes

8. First reading: Proposed changes to Chair elections (page 32)

Q-Have you considered making all elections the anonymous, online format?

A-The question is who will handle it, are departments comfortable having the Senate Office secretaries doing it.

Q- Does "two consecutive semesters" include the then-current semester?

A-No, it would not include that. We will clear up this language.

Comment- We're electing a chair in our department now and are voting online. It is MUCH better than the old way.

Q-Typically, the sealed box is taken to the Dean's Office, how do we handle the results if this is in Qualtrics?

A-All Qualtrics has is a bar graph with number of votes.

9. First reading: Proposed changes to medallion resolutions (page 34)

Makes changes that any student graduating in December can also be eligible for Medallion Awards in May

10. First reading: Proposed changes to Code of Ethics (attached to this agenda)

11. Curriculum report (attached to this agenda)

5603432-Motioned, Approved

5494303- Motioned, Approved

5600559- Motioned, Approved

5600525- Motioned, Approved

5611957- Motioned, Approved

5583622- Motioned, Approved

5584208- Motioned, Approved

5586328- Motioned, Approved

5585095- Motioned, Approved

5580432- Motioned, Approved

5579658- Motioned, Approved

5589239- Motioned, Approved

5612795- Motioned, Approved

5589251- Motioned, Approved

5472979- Motioned, Approved

3:10-3:15

11. New business

AFT is close to an agreement with the Administration on release time for Chairs in Departments with Heads. Part of this agreement will outline in broad strokes what Chair duties may be.

Comment- This is an important evolutionary distinction as Rowan seeks to fill R2/pursue R1 status

Q-Do CUGS and COGS really attract students?

A-It varies greatly

Comment-The Academics of the Future Committee has a Subcommittee that should be able to work on this.

12. Adjournment 3:13