University Senate Minutes

February 12, 2021, 2:00-3:15, Zoom

2:00-2:30

1. Approval of agenda-**Motioned, Approved**
2. Introduction of visitors -**No Visitors**
3. Approval of minutes from December meeting-**Motioned, Approved**
4. President's report
   i)   COVID-19 updates:
        i.   Testing and reporting
              We are rolling our saliva testing for employees and non-residential students
        ii.   Vaccinations
              Age and those with health conditions are being considered now for employee vaccination.

2. ii) Promotion MOA for Lecturers

   This is now approved. Certain people may be eligible for early promotion, talk to your Dean.   There may be problems, as Dean's ideas about this may vary.

   Comment-If your Dean has created an equivalency based on your prior experience, that is still promotion.

   Q-If Deans can make the call on this, there may be inequalities. Why isn't this a university level process?

   A-Every department should have criteria, and those inequalities exist in every early promotion process.

   Comment-Since this is a brand new MOA, it was hard to address every concern. The Promotion Committee and AFT will be watching the process to see what changes may need to happen in the future

   Q- What about industry experience - would K-12 full time teaching in your content area be considered industry experience? specially outside education in the field?

   A-This will be up to your Dean.

   Q-Bill, did you say teaching at other institutions could count toward years of full-time service?

A-Yes, it absolutely can. Talk to your Dean.

3. iii) Promotion for Professional Staff

   There is no official process for Professional Staff promotion. The AFT is developing criteria for professional staff promotion and developing an MOA.

   iv) Committees to revise MOAs

   We are looking to streamline packages. The current MOAs are clunky. We will make them clearer and shorter

4. v) 3/4 time faculty

   There are departments where there are still ¾ timers and they are doing great work and service. We need to find a way to include them in Senate processes.

5. vi) Rowan College partners

   We are looking to have the RC's become branch campuses. The administration is working with the state to examine how to make this happen.

6. vii) Remote teaching and work after the pandemic

   The University of the Future report will be presented to the Board of Trustees at the next meeting.

   Discussion about teaching modalities in the Fall. Rory McElwee and Roberta Harvey are going to do a listening tour to see what has worked and what hasn't with course delivery

7. viii) Calendar committee

   Work to improve the Academic Calendar, but we do have some limitations

2:30-3:10

5. Update on Budget (Chris Simons)

   The budget remains strong for this year and we should have a significant surplus.

   Over winter break, the university was given more CARES Money and there may be a third round of funding.

There has been a dip in enrollment from Fall to Spring semester.

Fall 2021 applications are down. Some colleges are down as much as 75% in applications.

Fossil Park, Student Center Addition, and West Campus development moving ahead.

Q-Can you talk about dorm utilization and vender contracts?

A-just below 3700 students living on campus this Spring. For vendors, we are not getting the same communion levels.

Q-Does this include transfers?

A-Yes, but transfers do not look as bad and tend to apply later in the year.

Q- Given that the budget isn't so bad, has there been any discussion of when we'll get our deferred salary?

A-Those dates have already been set. This July we are getting 2%; July 22 we are getting 4%.

Comment-If you take the early retirement buyout, you will not get the raises.

6. Curriculum report (attached)

5463943-Motioned, Approved

5475516-Motioned, Approved

7. Copyright Policy for Online Education (page 2)

This has already been approved by the Information Security Board and they are seeking feedback.

Comment-Rowan Global will pay you an extra one full credit. Bill will forward this information.

8. LMS Third Party Integration Policy (page 8)

There had been no formal process. Kim Poolos and the Tech Resources Committee have worked with Mike Ciocco to create this.

Comment-IRT has turned off the "Import from Blackboard" control. Why has this happened?

A-The have turned off all import functions to streamline getting all Canvas shells up and running

3:10-3:15

9. New business

Rowan University has started planning to use for-profit companies such as Udacity and Statistics.com (these are not accredited) for course design and delivery. This is concerning because these courses will not be taught by our faculty. This is being pushed by the Administration.

Q-Are these in replace of courses in the Rowan Catalog or courses we do not offer?

A-Some are in place of our courses, some are for new graduate programs.

Please send Bill any information if you have about this.

Comment-It is time for us as a Senate to get together to put together a guide to refine curricular processes and definitions.

Q-What specifically are you looking for in this document?

A-Maybe a Curriculum Handbook, all information in one place.

Comment-It will take time to do this and the Curriculum Chair is already working at full capacity.

Communication Studies has had some challenges since the Fall with Rowan Global. There are concerns about student accommodations from Academic Success and Disability Services.

This has been a problem for students that need close captioning, transcripts, etc.

Q-Have you escalated these concerns to Deans or anyone else?

A-We have been getting the runaround by Global and IRT. The department chair is aware.

Q-Who is monitoring older Rowan Global courses to determine if they are also DEI sensitive?

Comment-It is in the University's best interest to address this.

10. **Adjournment 3:13**