



Plenary Session

September 15, 2021 – Zoom – 3:00 pm

MINUTES

Present Faculty and Guests

- Adams, Jamie
- Amare, Nicole
- Bates, Robin, excused
- Bowman, Ashleigh
- Brannan, Lauren
- Broach, Ellen, excused
- Bunch, Jaclyn
- Chadhain, Sinead
- Cleary, John
- Copeland, Donna
- Estis, Julie
- Feldvoss, Joerg
- Fregeau, Laureen
- Gregoricka, Lesley
- Godang Romulus
- Hartin, Charles
- Harmon, Charles
- He, Jia
- Henry, Alison
- Holden, Shelley
- Hossain, Delwar
- Jordan, Kimberly
- Lewis, Drew
- Lin, Mike
- Lynch, Colleen
- Madden, Ellen
- Manders, Jeannette
- Mark, Patricia
- Myers, Charlene
- x Raczkowski, Christopher
- x Rayner, Jonathan
- x Rhinehart, Jason
- x Sayner, Sarah
- x Shaw, Christy, excused
- x Shepard, Beth

- x Spencer, Edmund
- x Swanzy, Debra
- x Turnipseed, David
- x Vandewaa, Elizabeth
- x Vrana, Laura
- x Walker, Sean
- x Webb, Brett
- x Weber, David
- x Windham, Mike
- x Woodmansee, Brenda

- o Meeting called to order 300pm
- o Approval of Minutes for 8/18/21 Meeting: Approved
- o Approval of the Minutes for the special session 8/25/21 Meeting: Approved
- o Approval of Agenda for 9/15/21 Meeting: Approved

- o COVID Updates:

- o Dr. Julie Estis reported a name change of the committee to better reflect what the Re-opening committee is doing. The name is the COVID Response Team.

- o The committee is EMR/IT/56/A) if a dt 764t (S) on CDE/da7(at)0MBd(I)07ak(Q).C

mirrors the community rate. Employee infection rates are less than the community. Contact tracing team handles each case individually. Close contact exposures are usually with students that room together, eat together, study together.

- μ Dr. Estis agreed to take all the faculty concerns back to the COVID Response Team for further discussion.

- o President's Report:

- o BOT Meetings: Beth reports that meetings happen on Thursday and there is a recording on Friday. The meetings are live streamed on the BOT website. Anyone is welcome to watch.
- o O & M Budget The O & M budget is separate from the College of Medicine and the Healthsystem budget. The budget for the year did not include any salary increases for this year. The reason given was that USA took a significant hit in student retention from 76% to 71% this year, which is about 200 students or \$2 million tuition dollars.
  - o State appropriations were up this year 2% and the dip in enrollment and tuition dollars ate at additional appropriations.
  - o Several board members advocated strongly for faculty salary increases even if it meant a budget deficit. Administration was reluctant to go into a budget deficit. The administration is reluctant to go into a budget deficit since we just climbed out of a budget deficit; however, they

- o Mitchell College of Business: The investigation is completed. Dr. Kent has included all the new initiatives of the Diversity committee is doing. Also, the new interim chief diversity officer will join the FS in October.
- o Critical Race Theory and Legislation: The impact of critical race theory is still being discussed on teaching, research, etc. Excomm did ask admin to ~~consider~~ considering a statement of the impact of the legislation on higher education.
- o Enrollment Totals: Undergraduate 8833, Graduate 4859, Med Students 300, Total enrollment minus med students 13,992.
- o Response to FS COVID-19 Resolution: The FS excomm sent the resolution to admin and received a response from interim President Smith to our requests. The response from Dr. Smith will be sent out to Caucus leaders, who will forward it ~~to the~~ faculty in respective colleges. A plan was made to accomplish this.

- o Completion of Pending Business
- o Reports from University Committees
  - o Report from University Fringe Benefits Committee Meeting 8.24.21  
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