Senate Executive Committee WebEx Meeting Minutes

May 28, 2020 – 11:00AM

Attendees: Mark Becker, Wendy Hensel, Michelle Brattain, Catherine Perkins, Jon Wiley, Kris Varjas, Sally Robertson, Rose Sevcik, Shelby Frost
Guests: Kerry Heyward, Tim Renick

I. Approval of February 3, 2020 Minutes – The minutes were approved.

II. President’s Report

- Revisions to the CORE project is going to require considerable work and revisions so the earliest implementation will be the fall of 2023.
- A video was sent to the GSU Community regarding the reopening of the university. The Provost will send out similar correspondence to the faculty.
- It looks like we will be dealing with this virus for at least twelve more months.
- The return to work is being phased over June, July, and August. Athletics will return next week in a socially-distanced way.
- GSU is one of the sites conducting COVID test for the State of Georgia. Julia Hilliard and the Department of Biology are conducting about 600 tests a day. They will do some preliminary tests with Athletics and will have the capacity if we need to do testing in residence halls.
- Everyone is required to wear masks and be at least six feet apart when possible. Elevators will contain signage indicating where to stand and the capacity is four.
- When we return in the fall, a blended learning model will be used to accomplish social distancing in classrooms. For example, one method would entail dividing the students in cohorts based on their last name, e.g. if the class meets on a Monday or Wednesday, one group would come on Monday and the other on Wednesday and the course would be augmented with online. Based on feedback, faculty would prefer to do their assessments, quizzes and final exams in person.
- The residence halls will be open but with reduced capacity. The majority of students will be in singles and a small number will be in doubles if they choose.
- Deans and department chairs will need to be involved at the local level
- Enrollment is up higher than it was at this same time last year. There are currently 25,000 students registered for the fall semester.
The Governor’s budget will not be final until the end of June; therefore, the determination on when and if there will be furloughs or layoffs is not known at this time. All USG institutions have been asked to plan for a 14% reduction in state funding. This equates to $40M for Georgia State, and with the USGs decision to switch the higher online rate at Perimeter to the regular rate, results in a total of $42.5 M cut for Georgia State. Other methods that could assist in determining if furloughs or layoffs are needed are a proposed separation program not yet approved and a capacity alignment plan which identifies areas where we have more people than we need.

If the policy on furloughs is implemented, the lowest paid employees will not have to incur any furlough days. All University Presidents would take 10 percent. Vacant positions will not be filled and there will be freezes to travel and events. Hiring will be limited to critical positions only.

III. Provost’s Report

There are numerous training opportunities and webinars for faculty to prepare for the blended model and online teaching. This is a format that can be shifted to total online if necessary.

Additional instructional design services and compensation have been offered for master course development this summer.

The elimination of limited term faculty has caused departments to try and figure out how they’re going to cover all their sections because they have relied heavily on visiting lectures.

It is possible that faculty will have elevated course burdens in the fall as a result of the shift to the blended model. Moving a class to online will be at the discretion of the department chair and the final decision will be made by the Dean and Provost. There will be a specific prioritized listing on who has priority to teach an online course.

The FLCs will be prioritized.

In order to be assigned an online course, a professor will need to have a history of success with online courses and student evaluation instruments. They would also need prior training or commit to take the CETL training. CETL has created special programs for graduate assistants, PTIs and graduated courses for faculty.

The type of training that faculty and instructors take will be considered as part of the annual review and P&T process.

There will be a section on CETL’s website on assessment vehicles that can be used.
IV. FY 21 Budget and Plans for Re-opening of Campus
   Included in President’s Report

V. Senate/Faulty Roles in Planning for 2020-21
   Although faculty does have roles in the task forces, it was determined that better communication is needed.

VI. Resuming Senate Business with Social Distancing

   ➢ Kerry Heyward, University Attorney, was invited by President Becker to speak on the Senate Bylaws and how the Senate will conduct its business for the next year. The Senate bylaws only allows in-person meetings in order to take action. Electronic voting is only allowed for committees and subcommittees. One option would be to amend the bylaws to allow for electronic meetings, but an in-person meeting would still be needed to talk about those logistics. A two third majority vote is needed to conduct that meeting and the amendment would need to come from Statutes and Bylaws who could review it and vote on it electronically and then send to the Executive Committee.

   ➢ Two locations suggested for an in-person, socially-distanced meeting is Clarkston and downtown. Michelle will call CETL to get instructions on the technology needed to have an in-person Senate meeting in early August.

   ➢ Michelle will look at the first Thursday in August for the Senate Meeting.

VII. Senate Business
   Motions from the Faculty Affairs Committee
   1. Revision of University Promotion and Tenure Manual – Will send back to Faculty Affairs for a friendly amendment to the section on Emeriti faculty.
   2. Revision of University NTT Promotion Manual

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.