**2020-2021 Faculty Senate Annual Report**

**Dr. Miguel Moreno, Speaker**

**Dr. Bethanie Pletcher, Deputy Speaker**

**Dr. Pam Greene, Secretary**

**I. Academic Affairs – Mr. Sean Britt, Chair**

The Academic Affairs Committee continued (and will continue) to use Curriculog for catalog review, with pending implementation of CourseLeaf software for the 2022-2023 review process. A total of 311 course additions, course deletions, program changes, new programs, and course changes (254 undergraduate, 57 graduate) were approved during 2020-2021.  In addition, all members of Academic Affairs served on the University Curriculum Committee, chaired by the Academic Affairs Committee Chair. The UCC addressed proposals by selected colleges at each of 2 meetings, then met once again for a new proposal in the Spring.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **College** | **Course Deletions** | **New Programs** | **Course Additions** | **Program Changes** | **Course Changes** |
| COB – Undergraduate Programs | 10 | - | 5 | 13 | 20 |
| COB – Graduate Programs | 1 | - | 1 | - | - |
| COEHD – Undergraduate Programs |  | - | - | 4 | 7 |
| COEHD – Graduate Programs | - | - | 3 | 10 | 11 |
| COLA – Undergraduate Programs | 5 | - | 21 | 21 | 63 |
| COLA – Graduate Programs | - | - | - | 3 | 4 |
| CONHS – Undergraduate Programs | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| CONHS – Graduate Programs | - | - | - | - | - |
| COSE – Undergraduate Programs | 5 | - | 12 | 15 | 41 |
| COSE – Graduate Programs | - | 2 | 6 | 8 | 8 |
| UCOLL | - | - | - | 3 | 7 |
| TOTALS | 21 | 2 | 49 | 77 | 162 |

Recommendations from the committee for the upcoming year include the following:

1. Establish meeting schedule for UCC chair to communicate with Grad and Undergrad Council chairs prior to UCC meetings.
2. Establish protocols for transition from Curriculog to Courseleaf for future review, including review process training and workflow guidance.
3. Work with Office of Academic Affairs to create “hand-off” protocols for future incoming UCC chairs.

**II. Faculty Affairs – Dr. Lisa Comparini, Chair**

The following university rules and procedures were reviewed by the committee and approved by full senate (except in the case of the expedited review of July 2020):

**July 2020 (reviewed by exec during the summer to achieve the expedited schedule requested by Academic Affairs)**

* 08.01.01.C1, Civil Rights Compliance
* 08.01.01.C1.01, Student Pregnancy and Parenting Support (PDF)
* 08.01.01.C1.02, Student Sexual Assault Incident Coordination (PDF)
* 08.01.01.C1.03, Employee Requests for Religious Accommodation (PDF)

**September 2020**

* *12.99.01.C0.01, Faculty Development Leave*
* *31.05.01.C1, Faculty Consulting, External Professional Employment, and Conflicts of Interest*
* *31.05.02.C0.01, External Employment*
* *33.99.99.C0.01, Postdoctoral Research Associates*

**October 2020**

* Began review of language related to the Faculty complaints and appeals process (as described in 32.01.01.c0.01 complaint and appeal process for faculty members) as a follow-up to faculty concern.

**November 2020**

* Continued our review of language related to the Faculty complaints and appeals process (as described in 32.01.01.c0.01 complaint and appeal process for faculty members.

**December 2020**

* 15.01.01.C0.02, Administration of Sponsored Agreements
* 34.07.02.C0.01, Academic Continuity Planning
* 34.02.01.C1, Drug and Alcohol Abuse and Rehabilitation Programs

**January** **2021**

* 07.03.01.C1, Political Campaign Events at University Facilities
* 31.02.13.C0.01, Wellness Release Time

**February 2021**

* 15.01.01.C0.01, Administration of the Research Enhancement Program

**March –***12.07.99.C0.01, Fixed-Term Faculty Members*

* *12.07.99.C0.01, Fixed-Term Faculty Members*
* *33.99.04.C0.04, Promotion of Fixed-Term Faculty Librarians*
* Began review of policy 33.99.99.C0.03 (*Academic department chairs*) with regard to the problem of untenured individuals as department chairs, particularly as their role involves evaluation of tenured faculty. This concern was raised by faculty.

**III. Committee on Committees – Ms. Emily Metcalf, Chair**

The annual Faculty Committee Interest survey was distributed this year to 452 faculty, including those with administrative appointments, such as the President and Provost. Of the 195 respondents, 94% (n=181) completed 100% of the survey with only 14 completing less than 50% of the survey. These responses will be used to help make recommendations for the 90 openings on campus committees. These openings include the total number of vacancies and ending terms of faculty. It should be noted that some faculty members may want to renew their service on a committee for another term while others require an election for appointment, meaning the survey responses will not be used to find a replacement for all 90 openings.

**IV. Awards/Bylaws/Elections – Dr. Bethanie Pletcher, Chair**

* Awards:
  + Made announcements, collected applications and ranked candidates for awards (Regents Professor, Faculty Excellence Awards) and made recommendations to the Provost and President.
* Bylaws:
  + Provided guidance to the Senate, its officers and members to make sure that senate actions and procedures were in compliance with the senate constitution and bylaws.
* Elections:
  + Conducted Senate elections according to the constitution and bylaws using Qualtrics.

**V. Budget Analysis – Dr. Dorina Murgulet, Chair**

* Dr. Dorina Murgulet (College of Science and Engineering) ***Chair***
* Dr. Qiunang Zhao (College of Business)
* Dr. Abu Waheeduzzaman (College of Business)
* Dr. Mohan Rao (College of Business)
* Mr. Philip Johnson (College of Liberal Arts)
* Brought concerns and questions of faculty related to university finances and budgets to Vice President for Finance and Administration, Mrs. Jaclyn Mahlmann.
* Engaged in analysis of budgetary issues affecting faculty through meetings with the Vice President for Finance and Administration, Mrs. Jaclyn Mahlmann.
* Engaged in budgetary analysis through providing an evaluation of suggestions by the Budget Think Tank.
* Proposed and continuously engaged, when given the opportunity, in the analysis and solutions to offer tuition assistance to graduate students through meetings with the Vice President for Academic Affairs, Mrs. Jaclyn Mahlmann and the Dean of Graduate Studies, Dr. Karen McCaleb. The tuition fellowship program that started in Fall 2020 is continuing and there is a potential that students in programs that require more than four years to dissertation defense, may be awarded additional funds beyond the 3 years initially proposed. This will be a program-by-program analysis.
* The budget committee agrees that faculty senate should be appraised of the "Financial State of the University" as part of the shared governance. In order to achieve this objective, the budget committee requested that faculty be part of the University’s budget development. The President and Vice President for Finance and Administration, Mrs. Jaclyn Mahlmann have agreed. Faculty will be part of a Budget Advisory Group. This group will be formed in 2021 and will include 5 faculty, 5 staff, 1 student, 1 dean, 1 Marcom. Members of this committee will be nominated and the final decision of who should serve will be that of the President and the PC. However, one of the faculty members representing will be from the Faculty Senate Budget Committee.

**VI. Noteworthy Accomplishments**

* Distributed and Analyzed Faculty Survey regarding COVID-19 related concerns in June 2020 that was shared with university administrators.
* Approved resolution on Safety, Academic Freedom and Shared Governance in response to a faculty survey (i.e., Eight for the Island).
* Approved Resolution in support of the negotiations of the Texas Library Coalition for United Action with Elsevier
* Responded to faculty concerns regarding the TAMUCC mascot. Secured a review from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and advocated strongly for mascot’s replacement. President Miller formed a committee (with faculty senate representation) to review and make recommendations regarding the university mascot.
* Responded to faculty concerns regarding the recent changes to the Complaint and Appeal Process for Faculty Members (32.01.01.C0.01). Current discussions with Academic Affairs are ongoing to resolve policy language regarding the term Designated Administrator.
* Faculty Senate was represented on administrative searches including dean searches for the CONHS, CLA, and COB and the search for a new Vice President for SEAS.
* Worked with Administration to address various hot button issues such as
  + The impact of COVID-19 pandemic in faculty annual reviews
  + University COVID-19 case count dashboard