

Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, August 12, 2021, 3:30pm
via Zoom

Dr. JoEllen Pederson called the meeting to order at 3:30pm. The following members were on the call:

Dr. Robert Blaisdell	Dr. Lee Bidwell	Ms. Natalie Browning
Dr. Bill Burger	Dr. Roger Byrne	Dr. Mary Carver
Dr. Karla Collins	Dr. Scott Cook	Dr. Jackie Daniel
Mr. Ian Danielsen	Mr. Donovan Douglas	Dr. Kathy Gee
Dr. Kari Hampton	Dr. Will Holliday	Ms. Claire LaRoche, J.D.
Dr. Dina Leech	Dr. Virginia Lewis	Dr. Leigh Lunsford
Dr. Kat McClesky	Dr. Pam McDermott	Dr. Meg Meng
Dr. JoEllen Pederson	Dr. Jeannine Perry	Dr. Lissa Power-deFur
Dr. Tim Ritzert	Dr. Brent Roberts	Dr. Larissa Smith
Dr. Ryan Stouffer	Dr. Dorothy Suskind	Dr. Sarah Tanner-Anderson
Dr. Wendy Thompson	Dr. Sarah Varela	Teresa Dodson, Recorder

Also present were Dr. Bill Abrams, CJ Alderson, Dr. Jennifer Apperson, Dr. Dale Beach, Jennifer Beach, Dr. Virginia Beard, Josh Blakely, Dr. Angelica Blanchette, Dr. Sarai Blincoe, Dean Boyle, Dr. Gretchen Braun, Dr. Lisa Burrs, Dr. Ben Campbell, Ms. Patti Carey, Dr. Mary Carver, Dr. Paul Chapman, Kathy Charleston, Dr. Tim Coffey, Emily Davidson, Dr. Wade Edwards, Samantha Ellington, Jennifer Fraley, Dr. Scott Grether, Dr. Elif Guler, Dr. Renee Gutierrez, Mark Hamilton, Carl Harvey, Dr. Jim Haug, Dr. Maxwell Hennings, Susan Hines, Tammy Hines, Dr. Steven Hoehner, Dr. Roland Karnatz, Dr. Chris Labosier, Ashley Leslie, Vicki Marie-Palmer Lea, Dr. Brooke Mathna, Matt McGregor, Matt McWilliams, Dr. Julie Mersiowsky, Dr. Dan Michael, Dr. Sara Miller, Dr. Jake Milne, Dr. Tammy Parlier, Dr. Katie Pennington, Justin Pope, Dr. Phillip Poplin, Sarah Reynolds, Dr. Melissa Rhoten, Dr. Carl Riden, Dr. Sean Ruday, Dr. Marsha Rutledge, Dr. Jackie Secoy, Dr. Leah Shilling-Stouffer, Dr. David Shoenthal, Dr. Shawn Smith, Dr. Adreinne Sudbury, Dr. Margaret Thompson, Dr. Larissa Tracy, Dr. Maureen Walls-McKay, Dr. Stephanie Watts, Dr. Thomas Wears, Dr. Deborah Westin, Dr. Rebecca Wetmiller, Jennifer Whitaker, Dr. Jon White, Lauren Whittington, Dr. Haley Woznyj, David Zirkle, Jessi Znosko, Dr. Wade Znosko

Dr. JoEllen Pederson opened the meeting with introducing herself and welcoming everyone back.

Action Item #2: [Face Covering Syllabus Statement for 2021-2022](#). – Passed

Claire LaRoche, J.D. spoke on behalf of the faculty CBE on comments received by her department. Dr. Douglas Donovan shared comments from the theater department addressing their concerns. Dr. Lara Smith spoke in regard to the theater departments concerns and explained that the mask policy can in some ways be offered an exception to accommodate some of their concerns. Bob Blaisdell spoke on behalf of his department.

Dina Leech proposed an amendment with some wording changes in regard to mask construction. The amendment was seconded by Tim Rizert. There being no further discussion, the proposed amendment was voted on and passed.

Claire LaRoche, J.D. proposed an additional amendment in regard to faculty having the right to determine whether they wear or not wear a mask based on their vaccination status. The amendment was seconded by Dr. Donovan Douglas. Dr. Lara Smith explained why the mask mandate was put back into place. There being no further discussion, the proposed amendment was voted on and did not pass.

Action Item #3: [FPPM II. F Additional Attendance Policy Language for 2021-2022](#) - Passed

Dr. Virginia Lewis proposed an amendment to change wording from “this may include” to “faculty may require”. Tim Ritzert seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the amendment passed

Dr. Lara Smith welcomed everyone back and expressed her appreciation to all faculty members. She talked about the pandemic and the challenges that we face, and the realization that Covid is something that we will be dealing with for quite some time. She encouraged everyone to be flexible and understanding as we move forward. Classes will be in person this year and she is hopeful that classes will stay that way. She expressed following Covid safety protocols and to stay prepared. Guidance for the protocols will be sent out via email.

Justin Pope talked about contract tracing and the dashboard, both things will be used this year. With Covid knowledge and vaccines, this school year will look different. Having flexibility with changes as they occur is appreciated. Medical and religious exemptions were discussed. Protocols for non-vaccinated students was covered. He shared the percentages of vaccinated students as it stands now. He feels that based on the information they have at the moment, overall about 64-65% of our students are vaccinated. He was hopeful that the percentages could be higher once the semester is underway.

Matt McGregor talked about changes in the quarantine and isolation changes, contact exposure quarantines will be different this year. If an unvaccinated student is exposed they will no longer be able to stay quarantined in their room they will need to quarantine in ARC or Longwood Village based on the number of quarantined students. Off campus quarantined students will function the same as last year, as long as they can isolate the way they need to. Contract tracing has changed slightly, if a student is vaccinated and tests positive, they will not have to quarantine. They will be asked to wear a mask for 5 days and to be aware of their social interactions. After 5 days they will be tested again. Unvaccinated students will function like last year. The student will be required to quarantine for 14 days. He asked faculty that if they are notified of a positive case by a student to notify Jennifer Green as quickly as possible.

Jenn Fraley talked about the process once the student goes into quarantine and isolation. The process will be similar to last year. Anyone violating the protocols will go through the conduct process same as last year.

In closing Dr. Smith discussed asking students about vaccination status as it bumps up against both HIPPA and FERPA laws. Collective information may be made available at a later date. She talked about classrooms and how they are now back to pre-pandemic setup. Hallways and stairs are back to normal and new signage is in place. Cleaning supplies will be available, but cleaning and wiping down will not be needed this year. She asked for flexibility with meetings and office hours being mindful of peoples comfort level. The floor was opened for questions.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:04pm.

Respectfully,

Teresa Dodson, Recorder