

UAMS Academic Senate Council
February 24, 2021

Attendance: Tiffany Huitt, Edgar Meyer, Mary Burgess, Amber Teigen, Lindsay Blake, Saleema Karim, Jen Gan, Priya Mendiratta, Brendan Frett, Eric Rosenbaum, Brad Martin, James Selig, Andrew James, Ashley McNatt, Abdallah Hayar, Lee Ann MacMillan, Cherika Roberts, Wendy Ward, Ginell Post, Tom Jones, Kerry Evans, Corey Nagel, Emily Sparkman, Grover Miller, Dan Moser

Academic Senate Council Meeting Agenda

I. Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order at 2:02 by Tiffany Huitt

II. Report of Minutes

- b. Edgar Meyer reported the minutes were approved by majority vote.

III. Updates and New Business (Huitt)

a) Welcome to new members

- i. Jennifer Gan is stepping in as Chair of Research Committee
- ii. Lindsay Blake is the new Representative for Academic Affairs Faculty. This is not an official voting position, as it is not part of the Constitution.
- iii. Welcome to new CPH representatives

b) Meetings with the Provost (monthly meeting update)

- i. UAMS COVID-19 vaccine updates: The information is similar to the updates that has been given to the general faculty. Discussions continue to cover social distancing, and when events can be held. UAMS will continue to follow ADH social distancing guidelines.
 - a. *Question:* How did the decision arrive to vaccinate everyone at UAMS, including students who are young? This was due to students who have patient exposure. UAMS had vaccine available for everyone, and prior to the opening of community vaccination clinics. The decisions were made based on ADH guidelines. Vaccine has not been wasted, including opening up the vaccine to family members during the snowstorm.
- ii. Faculty Center administrative support
 - a. They have been working with Emily Freeman in Faculty Affairs to complete the handbook. They have offered administrative support to the Academic Senate. This will improve communication, and reduce redundancy.
- iii. UAMS Commencement ceremonies
 - a. In-person ceremonies have been cancelled, and all will be virtual again this year.
- iv. Impact of snowstorm on UAMS facilities and resources
 - a. A significant amount of water damage occurred in various areas of the hospital. Everything is up and functioning now.
- v. UAMS Inclement weather policy
 - a. There was a question in regards to students and education. It did not state whether virtual learning was cancelled. The intent was to allow flexibility to departments, colleges to continue or cancel, based on what was best for them.

- b. *Comment:* The academic senate should be engaged in the post-covid remote work policy. There is no revision of the current policy at this time. Currently, still need everyone to complete the paperwork to fulfill working at home to meet the current policy. There is a push-pull with space: for example, someone who comes in 1 day a week, may not have an office space. It will be important to include a budget item for Zoom licensing, to continue the ability to hold Zoom meetings.
- c) Full Senate Meeting follow up- Recording has been posted to website, minutes were distributed for approval
 - i. There was an outstanding question regarding resources for Wellness. Dr. Meyer reviewed that a faculty member had concern that faculty must consider student wellness in addition to trying to monitor their own wellness. Are there any additional resources that the Academic Senate could discuss to be added to the list of resources? One suggestion: to create clubs – such as yoga, cooking, etc. that could be offered. Another idea is to create support groups – such as loss of family during covid, support group for those who tested positive for covid.
 - ii. Separate question: 9,000/10,000 UAMS employees received the vaccination. When it becomes publicly available to everyone, UAMS will review the data to determine if it is mandatory. However, at this time, it is being required of students by some off campus clinical sites.
- d) 2021 HLC Accreditation Assurance Virtual Site Visit, March 1 and 2
 - i. The Senate was invited to contribute on the area of governance. We drafted the response for criterion 5. We will participate in the visit, including Criterion 1, 2 and 5.
- e) 2021-22 Council elections: call for nominations March 1, voting opens April 1
 - i. Please distribute e-mails to your colleges. If you are not going to run again for your position, request to reach out and recruit someone in your college.
- f) Spring Full Senate Meeting, is scheduled for May 26, 2021 at 4 pm
 - i. The newly elected officers will be announced. The president position will be handed off to Edgar Meyer.
- g) Budget spending
 - i. We have money that has not been spent due to virtual meetings. A suggestion to use the funds for promotional products: notepads, pens, stickers with Academic Senate logo. There are restrictions on how to use the money such as donations. The amount is approximately \$2500. One suggestion was to give random awards, incentives for people who complete surveys. Another suggestion: recognize a faculty member who is not in an administrative position and who is contributing service to the university, acknowledging efforts of faculty that are “doing a big lift”.
- h) Merge to Microsoft Teams- UAMS Academic Senate
 - i. Tiffany Huitt demonstrated the functionality of Microsoft Teams. She recommended that we transition to utilizing Microsoft Teams for future meetings, and for document storage.

IV. College Officer Reports

- a) Graduate School (Boysen, James): No report
- b) College of Health Professions (Robertson, Moser): No update. A question from a new faculty member was asked regarding childcare on campus. *Answer:* The land is being

identified for the build, and the childcare center will move forward after the land is purchased. It is not known if childcare would be available for only faculty or also students. A follow-up question was asked regarding donations for the facility, and it was noted that they are close in meeting the fundraising goals.

- c) College of Medicine (Mendiratta, Burgess): Dr. Westfall stressed that we all need to be making Covid precautions. He also encourages everyone to get vaccinated. He wants faculty to be champions of the vaccination, and help those who are hesitant to get vaccinated.
- d) College of Nursing (Lefler, Nagle): No report
- e) College of Pharmacy (Frett, Martin): The college of pharmacy is holding regular town halls monthly. The meeting last week with the Dean was cancelled, and is rescheduled for March.
- f) College of Public Health (Karim, Selig): COPH held an all college faculty meeting, and the Dean discussed bringing students back to campus, and developing a hybrid model.

V. **Committee Reports**

- a) Research Committee (Gan): The first meeting will be March 11 at 2 pm. Anyone who is interested should contact her.
- b) Faculty Affairs Committee (Huitt): An email was sent yesterday, and will have a meeting within next 2 weeks.
- c) Communications Committee (Hayar): No update
- d) Subcommittee for Constitutional Review (Martin): An edited version of the bylaws was sent prior to Christmas break. This will be resent, as there was no feedback. A meeting will be scheduled.

VI. **Reminders and Announcements**

- a) UA System BOT meeting, **March 17-18, 2021**, UA Division of Agriculture – 4H Campus (Little Rock)
- b) Ask@UAMS.edu

VII. **Adjourn at 3:04**