

Academic Senate Council

March 25, 2020; 2 p.m. Zoom Call

Minutes

Attending: Boysen, Burgess, Frett, James, Karim, Lefler, Macmillan-Crow, Martin, McNatt, Mendiratta, Nagel, G. Post, Selig, Whited, Zaller

Absent: Huitt, Miller, S. Post, Robertson

Guests: Davies, Gan, Hayar, Mahadevan, Palade, Sheridan, Steadman, Sterba,

- I. Call to Order at 2:03 p.m. by Dr. James.
- II. REPORTS FROM COLLEGE OFFICERS – CPH: Emailed Dean update on meeting notes and went out to all the chairs of the college. CON: Didn't meet with Dean yet because of COVID19; the two HR COVID documents were sent to Dean. COP: Not had a chance to meet with Dean yet; did try to drum up interest for committees and officer spots.
- III. COMMITTEE REPORTS – *Research Committee*: student research day went really well; should discuss plans for next year and how to handle judging; time consuming part was placing judges with abstracts based on expertise; need to develop metrics on how to assign faculty to posters for next year. *Communication Committee*: There are new instructions to connect to VPN through the Global Protect App. Global Protect does have limited seating if planning to use for meetings. Another option available to UAMS remotely is VMWare.
- IV. ELECTION UPDATE – Two positions for at large and two for secretary; getting decent response on voting.
- V. SPRING 2020 FULL FACULTY MEETING: Options for having the full faculty meeting include: no meeting or virtual one using Zoom (or other video conferencing software). Zoom license can have 100 people with unlimited time. Plan for having the meeting on April 29 at Noon. Agenda items for the meeting include: update from Academic Senate, introduction of new Academic Senate members, and UAMS leadership to provide COVID-19 update.
- VI. COVID-19: DISCUSSION OF ACADEMIC SENATE ROLE –
 - a. Update from Stephanie Gardner on COVID-19:
 - b. 4 patients in hospital, 7,800 people have been screened, and a hotline has been established.

- c. UAMS is working to make sure there is enough PPE for UAMS and other hospitals in the state. There are a lot of teams working on policy and coordination at statewide level to plan for surge in next few weeks. They are also exploring redeployment in terms of staffing if need arises; not a need now, but could change. She has been notified that Academic Senate Council would like to be involved. UAMS is trying to think creatively by making modifications to address changes in work force.
- d. Discussion around implementation of stringent social control policies were discussed. Getting serious about isolation, quarantine, and social distancing.
- e. Discussion on making mask at home was presented as an option to help with the shortage. A senate member stated that N-95 masks should be used. There is concern that supplies may run out when we are peaking.
- f. Research librarians provided the following link on how to conserve PPE:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/index.html>
- g. UAMS is developing in-house testing to overcome the shortage of testing kits. There is concern about shortage of supplies, specifically the reagents and swabs needed for testing.
- h. UAMS is working to procure additional ventilators and predict what will be needed for the next few weeks.
- i. Volunteers are needed: donations, food, money, supplies, and boxes.
- j. UAMS is working with Little Rock School District to develop a child care alternative for employees. UAMS may ask for student volunteers to help with this initiative.
- k. There is a 45 day lock down on new purchases. All capital projects are on hold. While there is an increase in bed usage, there is a decrease in elective visits & surgeries.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS: Send instructions to faculty for VPN

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.