



Faculty Assembly

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER

CU Denver Faculty Assembly Meeting

November 3rd, 2020

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Zoom

Minutes

Attendees: Michael Zinser, Joann Brennan, Katy Mohrman, Daniel Casillas, Tod Duncan, Peter Anthamatten, Vivian Shyu, Eric Baker, Diana White, Colleen Donnelly, Jarrod Hanson, Thomas Beck, Brad Hinson, Dale Stahl, Maryam Darbeheshti, Linda Fried, Bruce Neumann, Larry Cunningham, Kelly See, David Bondelevitch, Jeffrey Schrader, Eric Jewett, Jeremy Nemeth, Sondra Bland, Christy Briles, Larry Erbert, Andrew Friedson, Katherine Kelsey, Esther Sullivan, Diana Tomback, Xiaojun Ren, Fernando Mancilla-David, Geoff Johnson, Kevin Seeber, Geeta Verma, Elizabeth Steed, Dennis DeBay, Cristina Gillanders, Angela Gover, Lonnie Schaible.

(12:00 PM)

Michael Zinser - CU Denver Faculty Assembly Chair

- Meeting brought to order.
 - October Minutes Unanimously Approved.

(12:05)

Roderick Nairn, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

- There is a lot of work on the HLC reaccreditation process. The reaccreditation will happen in April. The review will be completely virtual aside from one representative who will come to campus to ~~compile-comply~~ with federal law.
 - This time around the report is more focused on compliance.
- There have been meetings and a lot of work focused on flexibility around performance evaluations. Please work with Joann Brennan to collaborate on this. The hope is to manage the criteria on a campus level.
- They are also looking at Faculty Titles, and Policy 5060. This is a complicated area that they are working through.

(1:00 PM)

Dale Stahl, Chair of the LGBTQ+ Committee

Katy Mohrman, CLAS, Ethnic Studies

- A letter was distributed last meeting on the shared communication protocol that was drafted by the LGBTQ+ committee. The letter asks that the assembly join with the Faculty Council to ask for the rescinding of the System's shared communication protocol.
- Dale Stahl motions to vote in support of the LGBTQ+ Committee's 1 October 2020 letter asking CU Denver Faculty Assembly to endorse the CU Faculty Council's resolution to rescind the "Shared Communication Protocol"
 - Seconded by David Bondelevitch
 - This motion was tabled.
- Another motion was proposed by Dale Stahl to support the Faculty Council's motion to rescind the "Shared Communication Protocol"
 - Seconded by Thomas Beck.
 - Yes 29, No 0, Abstain 8
- There is a push to continue addressing gender inclusion on our campus. One initiative by the past Chancellor was gender inclusion training. The LGBTQ+ committee thinks it would be good to extend that training to faculty. They are also working with students to identify areas where they interact with University systems that could be approved upon.
 - A starting point for this work is the use of correct pronouns. One problem is that the systems our university uses do not always have correct pronoun information. The systems also do not speak with one another.
 - Pronouns are important for individual's sense of self. Not using correct pronouns has been linked to higher levels of depression and dropping out.
- The LGBTQ+ committee and members of the CU Denver Community would like to push forward a mandatory training on Gender Identity and Expression. There are a lot of ways to institute this type of training, but it seems important to get the ball rolling.
 - There was a suggestion that Canvas have a more comprehensive identity section for students.
- Dale Stahl Motions to give the LGBTQ+ Committee support to explore a mandatory training on Gender Identity and Expression for faculty.
 - Yes 15, No 4, Abstain 18
- Larry Erbert Motions to put original motion from Dale Stahl back on the table. Seconded by David Bondelevitch.
 - Yes 21, No 2, Abstain 14

(1:15 PM)

Daniel Casillas, President of the Student Government Association

- He is proposing a mental health statement for faculty to include in their syllabi.
- There are currently a lot of concerns about the mental health of our students. Especially how COVID-19 has negatively affected them.
- Our University has reached the 25% mark of students who identify as Hispanic, which is also a factor in trying to push for this addition in syllabi.
- Peter Anthamatten motions to support the SGA recommendation to have the Mental Health Statement added into syllabi.
 - Yes 18, No 6, Abstain 13

(1:30 PM)

Jarrold Hanson, Chair of EPPC

Eric Baker, Chair of the APC

- Eric and Jarrod led a discussion on FCQs and Faculty Evaluations. They have been working on getting input from all areas on this topic. The hope to make some amendments to make a more equitable situation who are forced into teaching remote.
- One thought would be to have an exception option instead of overhauling the complete system. Just creating the opportunity for faculty to express why they want an exception.
- There are concerns that for IRC faculty with less job security it could be hard, as it puts the onus on the individuals who are in need.
- Another side is that individuals ~~don't~~**do not** think faculty should have to explain why they need an exception with the way the current semesters have gone. It should just be automatically applied.

(1:40 PM)

Joann Brennan, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Faculty Affairs

- The syllabi template is created by Faculty Affairs, and there is conversation about adding an addendum to the template to address the pandemic. Joann would like ~~the faculty-Faculty assembly-Assembly~~ to review the addendum and provide feedback on the current version. That will be distributed.

(1:50 PM)

Diana White, Chair of BPC

- The Governor's budget was released yesterday. It looks like it will be good for the campus. He proposed that funding for higher education be restored to pre-~~covid~~**COVID** levels. He also proposed a 3% tuition raise cap. Nothing is final yet, but the good news is that the starting point is strong.

(1:55 PM)

Michael Zinser - CU Denver Faculty Assembly Chair

- There is a motion at the system level that addresses tuition refunds for students due to COVID restrictions. There will be updates as we follow this.

(2:00 PM)

Meeting Adjourned