Minutes of the CAS Faculty Senate Meeting of February 15, 2021

Monday February 15, 2021, 4:01-5:09 PM

Attending: Coleen Popp, Steven Sidebotham, Alan Fox, Patrick Ogden, Lydia Timmins, Bernard McKenna, Talley Ridgeway, Jenny Lobasz, Kimberly Clark, Gunner Taylor, Nonie Bell, Kimberly Schroeder, John Pelesko, Edward Lyman, Phill Penix-Tadsen, Dominique Guillot, Deni Galileo, Zhenghan Qi, Dilia Lopez-Gydosh, Erin Cassese, Peter X Feng, Thomas Rocek, Jon Cox, Christine Grogan, David's iPhone, Mark Greene, Eynat Gutman, Shawna Vican, Jia Song, Neal Zondlo, John Morgan, Patricia Burt, James Angelini, Adele Hayes, Darryl Flaherty, John Jungck, Jason Hill, Jenn Trivedi

President Alan Fox made a technical introduction and conducted a brief poll to determine how many senators were participating in the meeting.

President Fox then called for and received a vote approving the agenda.

Those present and eligible to vote approved the minutes of the December 14, 2020 meeting noting that "Taddy's Actual iPhone" attending the December 14 meeting was senator Phill Penix-Tadsen.

President Fox noted that several departments in the University Faculty Senate lacked their own representative. He suggested that that body either had to increase its size or reapportion seats to accommodate the unrepresented units, which include Women's Studies, Africana Studies and Art Conservation. Jenny Lobasz commented on Women's Studies. Smaller departments should elect jointly a representative.

Dean John Pelesko gave a power point presentation on the state of UD's budget and that of the CAS noting how crucial it was that UD successfully recruit students to help offset financial deficits. Student enrollments for 2021 winter session increased 60% due to a fee waiver program. He anticipates that this will also be the case during summer session 2021. Provided here is a link to Dean Pelesko's presentation.

Dean Pelesko's presentation to the CAS of February 15, 2021

Dean Pelesko then fielded questions from some of the meeting's attendees:

Edward Lyman had a question about how Decision Days would be conducted.

Gunner Taylor (graduate representative) raised issues of funding for graduate students and extending deadlines for time to completion of degree

Kimberly Schroeder asked when there would be a decision about teaching live vs. virtually for summer 2021.

Deni Galileo asked about faculty hiring after UD had instituted a "hiring freeze." He noted after UD's announcement that 46 new faculty and 49 new staff had been hired and that expensive searches were still being conducted. John Morgan supplemented Galileo's question by pointing out that such a freeze hurt the CAS as other colleges were hiring during this period.

Jenny Lobasz returned to the issue of graduate student concerns raised by Gunner Taylor.

Those eligible to vote then unanimously (31-0) elected a slate of six candidates to serve on the CAS P&T Committee in AY 2021-22 and 2022-23. They are Tatyana Polenova, Dayan Knox, Tammy Anderson, Owen White, Julian Yates and Elias Goldstein

Chief of UD Police and Associate VP Patrick Ogden then made a power point presentation about safety on the UD campus, especially what actions should be taken in the event of an active shooter. The following link contains his power point:

Chief Ogden's power point for CAS meeting February 15, 2021

Following that he addressed questions raised by Jenny Lobasz about potential active shooter situations on campus. She was concerned about how to protect rooms on campus having doors that opened outward rather than inward.

John Morgan was also concerned about vandalism (especially in UD laboratory buildings) late at night and on weekends when left unsecured and how best to address that problem.

Deni Galileo praised some of the current on-campus safety practices, such as the ability of campus police to carry weapons.

Those eligible to vote then unanimously approved the consent agenda of nine items presented to the CAS Senate for consideration.

One item on the full agenda (German for Engineering certificate) also received unanimous approval.

Under new business, John Morgan suggested introducing a resolution to the University Faculty Senate extending by one year the time allowed graduate students to fulfil their degree requirements.

The meeting adjourned at 5:09.