Faculty Senate 08/19/2021 • Minutes

Attendance:	Jon Westfall, Maia Elgin Wegmann, David Hebert, Josh Armstrong, Andrew Wegmann, Charlie Abraham, Lynn Reed, AHM Reza, Zina Taran, Karen Bell, David Hebert, Taylor Skelton, Brian Becker, Carolyr		
	Bailey, John Alvarez, Nora Gough-Davis		
1. Call to Order:	The meeting was called to order by President at 3:31		
2. Announcements:	None		

	Agenda Item	<b>Comments / Discussion</b>	Motions	Action
3.	Approval of	1. Vote to approve minutes	Motion:	Approved,
	Minutes of May	2. Vote: Unanimous	AW	unanimous
	6, 2021 meeting		Second: ZT	
4.	President's	1. New Vice Presidents		
	Report	a. Eddie Lovin, Student Affairs		
		i. Enthusiastic, interested		
		ii. Full of ideas		
		iii. Focus on enrollment		
		1. Numbers down from last Fall		
		2. Last Fall, numbers also down		
		3. VP Lovin's main charge		
		b. Andy Novobilski, Academic Affairs (Provost)		
		i. Wants to know faculty opinions		
		ii. Describes self as faculty advocate		
		iii. Will continue to meet with AW monthly		
		1. Formal		
		2. Last Wednesday of each month		
		3. AW can bring Senate concerns		
		directly to Provost 4. Opportunity for two to discuss		
		faculty issues before Cabinet		
		5. Opportunity for honesty		
		iv. Regular meetings with faculty		
		1. $2^{nd}$ Wednesday of each month		
		2. Union Starbucks		
		3. All invited—Senators, faculty,		
		staff, students		
		a. Straight line to Provost		
		b. Open conversation		
		4. Novobilski's idea		
		2. Covid		
		a. General confusion		
		i. Plans to go online?		
		1. No plans to go online		
		2. LaForge: "It isn't going to		
		happen"; "we're back"		
		3. Do not tell students that this is		
		likely		

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ii. What if students/faculty/staff test	
positive?	
iii. Can students request to go online only?	
1. Only with an ADA request	
a. Requests should also work	
w/the professor	
i. JW: Not always the	
case	
ii. Notify AW if not	
b. Do not agree to teach a	
student online without	
ADA confirmation	
i. Mixed messages,	
ii. United front for	
faculty	
2. Same for faculty	
a. Information on website and	
syllabus template b. Contact H.R.	
3. Documented reason needed	
iv. What if a student gets sick or needs to quarantine?	
1. Same as protocol pre-Covid	
2. Outside reading, make up work,	
etc.	
b. Mask mandate	
i. Enforced	
ii. Intended to be temporary	
1. Engage/enforce the rules	
2. Student compliance	
3. Diminishing numbers	
c. Vaccine mandate?	
i. Cabinet: No	
1. Culture and financing	
a. Culture of area resistant to	
vaccine mandate	
b. Would lead to enrollment	
drop	
c. School okay financially	
i. Student enrollment	
drop	
ii. No longer okay	
d. Job cuts	
2. Mississippi Legislature	
a. Would call special session	
b. Override it	
ii. Mandatory testing also unlikely	
d. Are vaccines readily available on campus?	

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i. i.e., vaccine station in Union		
1. Cabinet, no		
2. Students CAN get vaccines in		
Student Health Center		
ii. Information dispersal on vaccine		
availability?		
1. (No one in Senate has heard		
anything about this)		
2. Bus on move-in day, now what?		
e. Covid Dashboard		
i. Up end of week one		
ii. If not already, will be soon		
3. Scholarships		
a. Requirement retained at 3.0 minimum		
b. One year, return to 3.25 after that		
4. OIT and Elucian change (JW)		
a. Renegotiation with Elucian		
i. Edward Craft		
ii. This summer		
iii. Four vendor propositions		
b. Current contract expiring		
i. Hiring current staff back in		
1. Worked around non-solicitation		
clause		
2. Former employees now current		
ii. All in-house staff		
c. New positions		
i. Business Intelligence		
ii. i.e. Adobe Sign 1. Available		
2. Divisions must apply		
iii. Chief Information Security Officer d. Better for university to have in-house IT		
employees		
e. Save \$280,000/year		
i. Will continue to pay for Help Line		
ii. Banner services maintained		
1. DH: Can DSU IT "tinker"		
w/Banner databases, software as		
needed?		
2. JW: Yes		
f. Will not affect Canvas, other subscriptions		
i. Previously managed by Ellucian		
ii. Now managed by DSU		
g. Degree Works software purchases		
i. Degree auditing program		
ii. Advanced		
iii. Transcribers also hired		

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2017 2020		3.301101	5111011 902/1
	iv. Roll out Spring semester?		
	5. University Finances		
	a. Doing okay even after last year		
	i. Increased funding from state		
	ii. 2.5% raises		
	b. Market adjustment raises		
	i. Hedged on increased future enrollment		
	ii. AW: What happens if that money isn't		
	there later?		
	1. Assured it will be		
	2. 120 raises given		
	6. Virtual Office Hours		
	a. 50% of hours can be virtual (5/10)		
	b. Permanent change		
	7. Beer and light wine will now be sold at football games		
	a. University gets ½ of sales		
	b. Athletics gets <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>		
	8. Name changes across campus		
	<ul><li>a. Office of Undergraduate Admissions</li><li>b. Office of Financial Aid</li></ul>		
	c. Office of Student Career Services		
	d. Office of Student Life		
	e. Office of Counseling Services		
	9. Questions		
	a. KB: Why reduce number of 300 and 400 level courses?		
	i. JW: Does not remember this discussion in		
	Academic Council		
	ii. DH: 40 hours legacy from previous cap		
	1. Programs scaled down		
	2. 300/400 requirement scaled down		
	in proportion		
	3. CA: Why weren't we told?		
	iii. AW will talk to Provost/Registrar for		
5 Ilairranit-	clarification		
5. University	1. Report from Staff Council:		
Entities	a. Carolyn absent, AW reports-		
	b. Questions about quarantine protocol		
	2. Report from BPAC (RT):		
	a. 11 Main Stage Events		
	b. 2 Roll Overs		
	c. 5 Children's Matinees		
	d. Continue streaming of film		
	e. 10% discount for faculty/staff		
	f. First show Dione Warwick		
6. Faculty Senate	1. Committee on University Services (ZT): no report		
Committees	<ol> <li>Committee on University Services (21): no report</li> <li>Committee on University Standing (JW):</li> </ol>		
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	<ul> <li>a. Preference forms on the way</li> <li>b. Executive committee will finalize</li> <li>3. Committee on Elections (AW, <i>interim</i>): <ul> <li>a. Addie Herod stepped down (proxy stepped up)</li> <li>b. Committee members, contact AW if willing to be chair</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Committee on Technology (JA): OIT updates, covered in President's Report</li> <li>5. Committee on General Academic Affairs (AR): no report</li> </ul>		
7. Action Item	<ol> <li>Invitation to Provost Novobilski to attend September meeting</li> <li>Discussion         <ol> <li>DH: Did Novonilski ask to attend?</li> <li>AW: No, will wait for an invite, but did offer</li> <li>DH: Provost prior to McAdams sat in all meetings                 <ol> <li>Can dampen conversation</li> <li>However, this is an open meeting</li></ol></li></ol></li></ol>	Motion: AW Second: DH	Approved, unanimous
8. Action Item	<ol> <li>Union 302-A being repurposed for student chapter meetings</li> <li>Motion to move all meetings to Jacob Conference Ewing</li> <li>Discussion: None</li> </ol>	Motion: AW Second: ZT	Approved Yay: 14 Nay: 1 Abstain: 1
9. Discussion	<ol> <li>Convocation and President's Address Response         <ul> <li>KB:                  <ul> <li>Personal politics should NOT be in the classroom</li> <li>Resent assumption that we are liberals "brainwashing" students</li> <li>Resent lecturing tone</li></ul></li></ul></li></ol>	Motion: DH Second: JW	Approved, Yay: 15 Abstain: 1

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	2. Not our student body (privileged,		
	coddled?)		
с.	MEW: There IS a place for ethics, morality in the		
	classroom		
	i. AR: Course content can also require		
	politics, religion		
	ii. AW: Discussion of racism, etc. nec. as		
d.	well ZT:		
	i. Who wrote this speech?		
	ii. AW: LaForge (Cabinet did not see it)		
e.	LR: "Lacked any inspiration or positive feeling"		
	DH: Science, objective truth		
	i. Left w/more questions than answers		
	1. Are there two sides to every		
	discussion?		
	a. Evolution		
	b. Climate change?		
	2. Where does politics end and		
	objective science begin?		
	ii. Requests we ask President LaForge for		
	clarification		
	1. Was our professionalism		
	questioned? 2. Who was the audience?		
	<ol> <li>Who was the addience?</li> <li>Considerations of time and place</li> </ol>		
	(Covid, cultural response)		
σ	AW: Assumes no affront intended		
5.	i. Cabinet members questioned audience		
	ii. LaForge mentioned "center of the room"		
	1. Guests, donors		
	2. State dignitaries		
	iii. DSU is not a place for zealots/radicals		
	1. This is not Harvard/Yale		
	2. We teach a $4/4$ , no time to be		
	radical		
	3. Suggests President LaForge does		
	not know what happens in our		
	classrooms		
	iv. Invite LaForge to a conversation with a		
	few senators?		
h.	JW: Tone was an issue, even if no offense was		
	i Request electrification		
	i. Request clarification		

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	1. DH: Informal		
	2. Do you know of any issues on		
	campus that need to be addressed?		
	ii. Can look into it further if needed		
	i. Motion for President AW to go to President and		
	ask for clarification		
	j. Discussion		
	i. ZT: Offered reinforcement		
	ii. CA: Be clear about what our concerns are		
	iii. AW: What counts as within a field?		
	2. Legislative goals for 2021-2022		
	a. Added work session between meetings		
	i. Could be on Zoom		
	ii. Makes monthly meetings shorter		
	b. RH: Sponsoring immigration status for		
	international faculty		
	i. Policy changed		
	1. Candidate now pays		
	2. Must use DSU lawyer		
	ii. Faculty not informed about change		
	iii. CB: FCIS lost a great candidate over this		
	3. ZT: Payment for overtime courses		
	a. RM:		
	i. Required courses in particular		
	ii. Same amount of work, even if under 10		
	students		
	b. MEW:		
	i. Summer school?		
	ii. ZT: Students pay extra for summer		
	school, makes sense		
	iii. But what about price per head and tuition		
	raises?		
	c. DH: Broader issue		
	i. DSU links overload, adjunct, and summer		
	school pay		
	ii. Decouple (dethrouple?) those issues		
	iii. 300 per head figure based on old tuition		
	numbers (about \$450 per credit at the		
	time)		
	1. Tuition increase		
	2. Faculty portion did not		
	4. DH: Tenure and Promotion		
	a. \$4,000 (associate) used to be 10%		
	b. Full, same		

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	c. Need to negotiate new terms, continued		
	reassessment very few years		
	i. When tuition goes up, salaries should go		
	up		
	ii. CB: Also need to look at increasing		
	adjunct pay		
	5. DH: Curriculum changes		
	a. Shorten the timeline		
	i. Due in December to deans		
	ii. Addressed in Academic Council in March		
	1. Curriculum is a "living document"		
	2. Should be able to edit all year		
	b. Increase communication		
	i. Direct from AC to divisions		
	ii. Not through deans		
	6. AW: University-wide curriculum committee		
	7. AW: Need to write resolutions for these discussions		
	a. Talk is not enough		
	b. Need to vote		
	c. Continue this work in extra working sessions?		
	i. Write up resolutions		
	ii. Keep moving in between meetings		
	iii. Develop action items for agenda		
	8. ZT: Will meet with research committee		
10. New Business	1. None		
11. Adjournment	1. The meeting was adjourned by President AW at 4:14	Motion: AW Second: DH	Adjourned

#### Next meetings

Executive Committee Meeting: Summer as needed; Sep. 2, 2021 General Faculty Senate Meeting: Sep. 9, 2021; Jacob Conference Center



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