

SCSU Faculty Senate President's Report - September 16, 2020

Updates

- **Meeting with President and Provost** - On 9/10/20, the FS EC and the FLC met with President Bertolino and Provost Prezant to address several issues:
 - It was requested that the COVID-19 Dashboard be updated daily, instead of weekly. President Bertolino supported this and said he would look into it. He subsequently reported that the Dashboard will now be updated on a daily basis.
 - Concerns were expressed regarding administrative-stated goals of 40-45% on ground/hybrid courses for Spring 2021 as well as incentives being offered for faculty to offer these courses. Specifically, the concerns had to do with the unknown potential health risks five months in the future and how a goal was being set without knowing these risks. This was also coupled with the statement that September 30th would be the deadline for faculty to change their course modality if they so desired and that after that date, exceptions to this would only be granted for medical reasons and with the certification of a physician. The faculty leaders advocated for faculty to make their own decisions based on their free will and the weighing of their personal circumstances and not based upon feeling compelled to make a particular decision based on other factors. The President and Provost assured the group that faculty would be free to choose their course modality and that there was no intent to incentivize them to choose one modality over another. They expect that the offerings for the spring in terms of modality will probably be similar to those of this fall.
 - Sized of online classes - On the fall course roster, approximately 260 online course sections had caps that exceeded 25 (the established cap for online courses). While there are many reasons why this occurred, the faculty leaders wanted to make sure that this did not occur for the spring. Concerns expressed by the group were noted by the President and Provost. UCF has since put out a statement from its Steering Committee which was approved by the UCF and which is cited and supported in the resolution that will be brought to the Senate for the 9/16 meeting regarding online course caps.
- **All University Elections** - Friday is the final day to receive nominations. Please remind your colleagues of this and encourage them to consider self-nominating for a position.
- **Some feedback regarding faculty reporting on teaching experiences this fall** - At the end of our last meeting, I had requested that Senators provide feedback regarding their teaching experience thus far this fall and invite faculty in their departments to send information as well. I

didn't receive a lot of responses, so we can't draw definitive conclusions, however, I'd like to provide you with some of that information. Overall, there are mixed levels of satisfaction due to a number of factors, however, faculty appear to be determined to keep working to provide the best pedagogy possible in their selected modalities

- Hyflex
 - Equipment
 - Sound was down; students could hear the professor; however, he could not hear them.
 - Faculty received no training on how to use two monitors. Sometimes one of the monitors will indicate it is not receiving a signal.
 - Online students couldn't see the document camera; the room camera wasn't quite working right.
 - Difficulty in remote students viewing board or no board available in high flex room
 - Equipment is professional as is instructor comfort level utilizing the equipment
 - IT staff overall very helpful in trying to resolve issues
 - Attendance - The on ground portion of the hyflex classes has been reported by a number of faculty to be poorly attended and in some cases unattended. In general, it seems that many students are choosing the hyflex distance option and choosing to not come to campus, however, one faculty reported that about half the students do attend the on ground option.
- Onground or hybrid (no hyflex) - Several faculty who are teaching fully on ground courses have reported no problems with this modality. Others have reported instances where students are sick or quarantined and are requesting either recorded classes or for the instructor to help them 'catch up.' One faculty acknowledged the difficulties of teaching with a mask on and creating a connection with students who are wearing masks. Problems hearing each other have also been reported.
- Online synchronous/asynchronous - One faculty member described his efforts to take the opportunity to learn how to become the best instructor possible and learn new ways to utilize this modality which is resulting in a high level of satisfaction.

For 9/16/20 meeting

Resolutions - There are two resolutions, both fairly self-explanatory and attached.

- *Resolution - Course class enrollment caps for online courses* - This resolution is very time sensitive, given the pending submission of the spring course schedule.
- *Resolution - Indigenous Peoples' Day*

Budget - to be presented at meeting

Available Faculty Travel Funds				
Fund	Starting Balance	Spent	Encumbered	Balance
FT "AAUP" Travel				
PT "AAUP" Travel				
Creative Activity				

2020-2021 Resolutions approved by Senate

Status of AY 2020-2021 Faculty Senate Resolutions					
Number	Date	Resolution regarding...	For	Disposition	Comments (abbrev.)
F-2020-01	9/2/20	Revisions to Sabbatical Leave	Approval	Approved	