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Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2021, 3:30 PM

Virtual

The meeting convened at 3:34 PM.

Update on budget and enrollment, (Provost Hartman)

- Provost Hartman thanked the Faculty Senate for the invitation. He extended wishes for a Happy New Year and Spring with hopes that we will start turning the corner. Courses started last week with 17% hybrid. Hopefully we may have a normal semester by the Fall. Housing projections have not panned out and are lower than expected. The university received 15 million dollars in stimulus money. 15-20 people on extended layoff have returned to work. Enrollment is up significantly in the graduate programs. Applications are down about 5%. Applications are down nation-wide. The COVID testing program expanded nicely. Some courses may be kept permanently virtual as some faculty like the virtual arrangement. An audience member asked if students will be able to get a mask if they forgot theirs. Provost Hartman will check into this.

12_7_20 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes, (President Graves), Attachment 1

A motion was made to accept the 12_7_20 Faculty Senate Minutes. The motion passed with 77 in favor, 0 opposed and 3 abstaining.

Report from the Board of Trustees, (Professors Koren and Hurwitz)

- 12_10_20 Board of Trustees Meeting
- 12_9_20 Committee on Administration and Finance

Graduate Policy and Affairs Committee (GPAC), (Professor Humberd)

- Proposal for a PhD in Earth System Science

Daniel Obrist provided a brief overview of this program.

A motion was made to accept the Proposal. The motion passed with 69 in favor, 2 opposed and 5 abstaining.

Undergraduate Policy Committee (UPC), (Professor Mittler)

- Proposal for an Option in Astronomy and Astrophysics in the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Physics

A motion was made to accept the Proposal. The motion passed with 71 in favor, 0 opposed and 3 abstaining.

For Information Only

Graduate Policy and Affairs Committee (GPAC), (Professor Humberd)

- Policy on Alternative Graduate Admissions Requirements for Graduate Applicants in response to COVID-19

Other Business

- Ad hoc committee on Academic Integrity, (Professors Humberd and Mittler)

Beth Humberd and Art Mittler provided an overview of this ad hoc committee. The impetus behind forming this committee relates to the increase in the number of academic dishonesty reports. Vice Provost Nash stated that she is happy to be working with the committee.

- Brandman/UMass Global update (President Graves)

On December 18, 2020 the Intercampus Faculty Council (IFC) met with representatives from the President's Office (Katherine Newman and Donald Kilburn) to discuss Brandman/UMass Global. Some faculty from Brandman signed a non-disclosure agreement after the negotiations were complete so that they could be informed of the details of the arrangement, but did not take part in the negotiations. The overall goal of the acquisition is to make money for the UMass System estimated to be \$150 million over the first 10 years. Note that this will equate to $\leq 0.5\%$ of the expected total system budget during that period. Following discussion President Graves asked that Faculty Senators interested in joining an ad hoc committee on Brandman/UMass Global.

The meeting adjourned at 4:53 PM.