

Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate

June 17, 2020

Zoom

Members Present: Jessica Beckett, Scott Bennett, Sandra Bond, Chris Bridgers, Ashlee Claud, Vanessa Conner, Elizabeth Craft, Emily Ewoldt, Mel Fox, Alix Guynn, James Harman, Steve Harrison, Kay Johnson, Eric Lovik, Chip Mann, Melissa Neal, Mary Catherine Santoro, Malinda Tasler, David Wheeler

Guest: Damien Allen, Staci Allan, Toni Alston, Teresa Anders, Alison Armstrong, David Bailey, Sandra Baker, Ismael Betancourt, Mike Biscotte, Tom Bluestein, Kate Burnham-Hull, Karen Casteel, Carolyn Clayton, Jorge Cortney, Charley Cosmato, Elizabeth Costa, Sara Coulson, Donna DeHaven, Beth Deskins, Kathie Dickenson, Lisa Dinkle, Abdel El Farissi, Marcia Elliott, Loretta Estes, Emily Fitzgerald, Elliott Freeman, Lauren Hall, Mary Hardbarger, Brian Hemphill, Nicole Hendrix, Michelle Hosey, Gwen Houston, Susan Hudson, Renee Huth, Beth Johnson, Debra Johnson, Heather Keith, Rebeckah LaPlante, Carla Linkous, Janice Linkous, Christina Manzo, Justin Martin, Glen Mayhew, Lisa McDaniel, Randa McDonald, Margaret McManus, Jackie McNabb, Jeanne Mekolichick, Joshua Nease, Donna Oliver, Allison Pratt, Jamie Price, Mary Reddick, Jennifer Resor-Whicker, Jackie Rumsey, George Santopietro, Rebecca Scheckler, Bill Shorter, Tom Snediker, Kate Steiner, George Stephenson, Susan Taylor, Michele Thacker, Matthew Thomas, Susan Tolliver, Dana Trask, Laura Turk, Jessica Twiest, Susan Underwood, Margie Vest, Meghan Viet, Sarah Wambe, Justin Ward, Regena Weddle, Anthony White, Penny White

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting called to order at 3:30 pm by President Ashlee Claud.

2. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from May 20, 2020 were approved.

3. **Guest Speakers:** Radford University President, Brian O. Hemphill.

Hemphill touched on the budget information previously distributed on strategic cuts vs across-the-board cuts, and the challenges faced by the university. He welcomed questions.

- Q: Laid off – would contract be in effect?

A: President will look into and get back.

- Q: When will we expect to hear from Facilities?

A: Expect to hear from George.

- Q: How do we support students of color?

A: Must be willing to listen, share. Must be willing to engage students in what may be a tough dialogue. 2nd piece – how to move forward. Must have avenues for them to talk with us, and us to talk with them. Have distance on Moffatt for BLM event. Must be supportive of students who are having protest. Also encouragement of conversations with police and students. Engage students, hear emotions, see how we can move them to a place of action, and what action they should take. We all have more to learn.

- Q: With all of the hot topics out there (COVID, BLM), what markers do you look for in whether we've had a successful reopening?

A: For me, I think a successful reopening includes if they are compliant with the requests we've made (wearing masks), social distancing, Ultimate test – we will have

some COVID cases, but will be able to manage those cases. We are successful if we send everyone home safely at Thanksgiving.

- Q: Housing quarantine. Also available in Roanoke?

A: Working right now on space for RUC (Susan Trageser working on this as we speak).

- Q: Possible to have BLM event at RUC?

A: Yes, both places.

- Q: With staggered opening are there expectations of how best we welcome students back, and welcome new students?

A: We had amazing plans before we realized we needed to stagger move-in. We have students who have literally never seen this campus. A lot of original plans shifted because move-in is over 10 days. Will think of entry point. Think of every interaction with students, and how challenging this will be. We'll have to be very intentional with support. This could be a very vulnerable group because of the challenges of building connections and face-to-face interactions.

- Q: Question about advising. Not all of us know best how to advise. Is there a methodology and referral process? Suicide rates and risks are up. People have come in worried. Referral to services beyond academic.

Q: People need to know who to refer students to. Susan and team developed comprehensive referral list. It will be beneficial for everyone to get this and understand the referral. It's coming.

- Q: How do we encourage students to wear masks, etc.? Plans to provide training in how to do this?

A: We will probably send something out on how to politely do this. There will be some people who can't wear them. We'll communicate students about expectations.

- Q: Students are overwhelmed with information. With reduced capacity of classrooms and more students accessing from dorms & apartments, for communication with students, do we have the IT support and bandwidth?

A: We'll communicate with students up front so they understand that. Margie Vest added, "We've looked at the load, and thought about that. We've used Zoom significantly for over 10 years, and have a good idea of the need, but will continue to monitor and scale as needed."

- Q: Observation and comment – Not sure people are aware of the amount of work to get us here today. Appreciative of what's been done to this point. A lot of work to do, and a lot more to get us where we need to go. I really appreciate it. We'll need to work together and support one another like we've never done before. When you combine all of this with COVID and BLM, we can do this. I look forward to this, but wanted to bring up the awareness of this.

A: We have a lot of dedicated, hard-working people. It's impressive what they've been able to do. Tall order of work as we go forward. I am confident in level of preparation.

- Q: Budget reduction exercises in spring – will these play into budget planning?

A: Governor can cut a total of 30%. We don't know what will happen. We'll need to look at recruitment, retention, etc. Will make decision in next week. The shared governance group will work around criteria for setting this and details of data. Not an

approach we want to take in isolation. Previous cuts have no relation to previous exercises, but Stay-tuned to see what's happening. Waiting for governor's decision.

- Q: With budget cuts, will CAIC project proceed, or on hold?

A: Good question. Still waiting on capital funding that may be unallocated. \$700,000 was allocated, and general assembly said they wanted to go forward with it. Our building is fine in theory. In special session, they could go back and revisit. Bond market is as good as it can get. Construction is jobs and revenue.

- Q: Is there a timeline for razing Porterfield.

A: Jorge Coartney responded: There would be no occupants of Porterfield moving out until after spring semester. We need every square foot available for social distancing. We have tiered projects before building can be razed. We might start a few projects during spring semester and transition people over summer. If not approved until spring, may not happen until fall semester.

- Q: Are the river project and hotel going forward?

A: Not moving forward on River Project, but doing preliminary planning and downsizing because it's our money. Hotel is someone else's money, and it's moving along well. We're all going through pricing at this point. Still running on track. Looking good. Nothing slowed down.

- Q: Two questions. Will the budget be loaded on July 1, and when will facilities be done with preparing for reopening?

A: Jorge Coartney responded: Target is August 1. Most of larger spaces have already had seats taped. Most of academic spaces will have furniture removed from them for classes, and then will work on labs. Will impact every square foot on campus. Working on Dedmon, hand sanitizer. Will have to work with every group on campus at a granular level. We've got PPE concerns. Monumental. Will see lots of progress in mid-July. Mask distribution has started, but requirement to wear won't be until July 27. Signage up about masks the day before.

President Hemphill responded: Budgets will be loaded July 1. We'll probably provide guidance about discretionary spending. We'll need to understand the landscape that we're dealing with.

- Q: Who do I ask about getting plexiglass for a lab?

A: Steve Harrison responded: Reach out to me or Facilities personally. We're prioritizing plexiglass for points of sale and points of traffic. We're going college by college, lab by lab, and consulting with department heads and others about lab PPE needs. We've met with every dean, and are meeting with department heads now.

- Q: We walk around in labs and talk constantly, which can be a challenge in a mask. Will face shields be provided?

A: Coartney responded: We've purchased a bunch of shields.

4. New Business: Set meeting day/time for FY21 AP Senate Business Meetings.

The third Wednesday of the month at 3:30 worked for many, but this will be finalized later.

5. Upcoming Event: Online Forum with President Hemphill on July 16 at 10:30 AM.

6. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:31 pm.

Future Meeting Date: To Be Determined.