

## Communications Report – Faculty Senate – September 3, 2020



**Faculty Senate** commenced at 3:45pm, with approval of un-revised August 20 minutes and Announcements.

**New Winter Term II Plan** - There will be a new Winter II term starting on December 03. It will run through January 08, 2021. This allows for an additional week in January that can be used for Labs, etc. Students participating in Winter II term will move into their dorms already January 02 and 03. Other students will start January 04-08. This new Winter II can be fully online but has the option of running a lab during the January 04-08 week. The "normal" Winter term will start as planned on December 14 and will run through January 08. Please make colleagues and in particular students aware of this opportunity and that for financial aid purposes this will count towards the Spring semester. This means that students can lower their load in Spring and keeping their full-term status while taking a class less during the Spring semester.

Staff Congress Chair Savard-Hogge called for additional staff support for Winter II term.

**Draft Plan for Spring 2021 semester** - The current plan is that we will start as planned on January 11, but the first two weeks will be fully online and face-to-face and hybrid classes will start with their face to face components on January 25. However, for classes that have a lab component those can start their labs already on January 19. This will allow for a more gradual influx of student onto campus. The plan is also to cancel Spring Break to avoid that students leave for a week, go to the beaches and come back. The semester will end a week early, finish lectures on April 23 and finals week will be April 26 to 30. Let me know what you think.

President Grupe provided noted that he had received a lot of positive comments but also a lot of negative comments from health sciences. He cited accreditation and number of clinical hours as a reason for the negative comments. Grupe stated that teaching modality

was within purview of academic freedom and that it was within the faculty's control. Further comments should be directed to [d.grupe@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:d.grupe@moreheadstate.edu)

**University's COVID-19 Response** - The Executive Councils of Faculty Senate and Staff Congress together with the faculty regents met with President Morgan, Russ Mast, Goldie Williams, Max Ammons, Kim Oatman, Mary Fister-Tucker, and Harold Nally of August 28 to discuss the University's response to COVID 19. The Faculty Welfare and Concerns sub-committee had compiled a list of question for faculty (see attachment). Many of the questions were addressed. The numbers of new cases are also listed now on the Healthy at MSU webpage <https://www.moreheadstate.edu/healthyatmsu>. The COVID-19 Rapid Response Team is made up due to people's position on campus.

Any response to COVID+ begins with the rapid response team—the notification to team may come from student, St Claire, health department, faculty, etc. It may take up to 72 hours to categorize and notify all concerned. If a student goes to St. Clair the students name, MSU ID, phone number, category, and anticipated time to release to health department reported to the response team. The student is the categorized into one of the following categories:

- confirmed COVID-19 positive
- Symptoms, possibly COVID-19 positive
- Confirmed Close Contact (e.g. roommate of COVID-19 positive) – Possible Close Contact

"Contact" means being in contact for more than 15 minutes at less than 6ft distance and/or without mask. **Note that classmates are not considered close contact.** Williams clearly stated that the Health Department has been apprised that MSU follows policies of appropriate masking, 6-foot social distancing, and wiping down student surfaces at the beginning of each class period.

For a student on campus if tested positive, needs to be isolated. This is done in Nunn which is dedicated for this purpose now. Has a capacity of 77 rooms. Students could leave and go home, however, this requires an approval by the help department. If in isolation it means 10 days for COVID positive and 14 days for quarantine cases. Students are supplied with food. They are checked on once per day. Students are responsible and choose to stay here.

\*A recent situation left three suitemates without notification. A suite indicates students share a bathroom. The fourth suitemate was COVID+. No address of this was provided to FS. \*

Faculty will receive an email from Max Ammons stating that a student will be on extended absence due to a public health risk. "This could be for any reason, so don't start speculating," said Ammons.

There are various points at which we may have to go fully online again. This may happen if

- - Capacity at local hospital

- – Governor closes universities down
- – Number of positive cases increases within a two-week period
- – Capacity at Nunn reaches about 80-90% corresponding to 61-69 rooms.
- – St. Claire cannot provide enough tests. Dr Morgan stated that St Claire receives testing kits each day, but that there may be a period of time when tests are unavailable
- – Number of teaching faculty unable to teach or could not obtain a substitute, or if core/ essential staff had interruptions to operations could also create a pivot situation– \*no critical number of faculty or staff were cited

When asked how to address unmasked students, staff, or faculty, or report policy violations, campus constituents were asked to either openly request the persons comply with policy or send an email to Max Ammons (for students), or faculty/ staff supervisor. Harold Nally may eventually become involved if faculty or staff do not respond to supervisor’s request. In addition, Senator Lennex also talked with MSU police Chief Harrison last week, who told her, that the MSU Police will not enforce mask policy compliance as they consider it an administrative regulation.

About Cleaning (check also the previous meeting’s announcements): All classrooms are cleaned starting at 05:00 every day. The mist spread in the classroom will disinfect the air and well the surfaces. In principle this treatment is good for 10 days. Kim Oatman also reminded everybody to clear each workspace after each class. Wipe surfaces down. In resident halls common spaces are treated and wiped down. In case of a positive case the room is locked for three days and then

disinfected.



\*President Grupe stated that Executive Council believed representation to the Rapid Response Team would provide clarity to student support and campus communications. Senator Lennex was nominated and approved by Faculty Senate vote. NOTE: 9/9/2020 Dr Morgan rejected Faculty Senate’s request for representation. \*

**LiveSafe App** - LiveSafe is a two- way communication tool to help faculty, staff, and students with their safety. You may download the app through Google Play or Apple App Store. The app provides an anonymous reporting of any in-progress situations and it may also be used as a personal locator:

<https://www.moreheadstate.edu/Administration/Police/LiveSafe-App>

MSU Police monitor LiveSafe daily and report any incidents to the appropriate offices. You may report any COVID-19 related issue through this app. It will be forwarded to the appropriate office for remediation.

**Faculty Senate Photos-** Due to Senator Lennex by end of business Sept 15!

**President's Report-** The state performance funding formula is under review, per state statute. Dr Morgan is hoping to freeze the formula in place. MSU enrollment will have preliminary numbers final numbers in the coming week. Full-time undergraduate enrollment looks okay, but part-time is less than usual. Dr Morgan believes it could be fewer Eagle Scholars. The projected budget looks on track for Fall and Procurement Building has been sold. However, notified just before FS that there is an 8% budget cut to our state budget. This equates to \$3.6 - \$3.8 million which must be returned to Frankfort.

Questions:

Regent Adams- Since the end of June, MSU has hired five football coaches. When there are vacancies in Academic Affairs, there is a massive effort seeking staff who may be available to fill a vacancy. Was there an effort to see if staff could be similarly fractionalized to fill football coaching vacancies?

Dr Morgan- A couple of the hires were more like GA positions; no staff were reviewed or recruited to serve in athletics. The Provost has the authority to move ahead with tenure-track hires. He claims a number of faculty hires are in process for January start date and two should be starting in October. \*did not specify in what way the two positions are akin to GAs nor any additional information about the about the other three\*

Regent Adams- Is anyone who is looking at the performance funding metric rethinking of the 10% way we look at the direct cost of educating students because right now the model includes non-auxiliary athletic spending as part and parcel of the direct cost. All the regionals get to put what they pay for athletics as part of what they input for educating students. Is there any talk about redoing that metric?

Dr Morgan- No, this has not specifically addressed. Concerned about two institutions with non-auxiliary athletics (UK, UofL) that would love to put their costs into a metric to drive millions and millions of dollars in expenditures. Prefer to leave this metric alone for this reason.

Senator Hare- "On athletics, given the budget and pandemic, don't you think it's time to discuss its place?"

Dr Morgan- Stated that instruction and high-quality teaching and learning is our core mission then student services. Claimed a lot of things did not fall in those areas, but that, "something has to give and we're gonna prioritize instruction."

Chair Savard-Hogge- What is the dollar amount for the 8% cut and can you talk a little about performance funding discussion.

Dr Morgan- In KRS 2.5 years ago, July 1, 2020 was set to begin evaluation of the performance funding model. The representatives were set at that time, work has begun and

should end early December. He is hoping for a two-year freeze of the model (20-21, 21-22). He and other institutions have pushed for a freeze, but all institutions have additional sent in specific requests for funding revisions which would benefit each. He equated the 8% budget cut to roughly \$3.6 - \$3.8 million.

**Provost Report-** Positions in all colleges are being filled with two beginning October 15 and others Spring. All positions are tenure-track. He stated that the Spring semester schedule is in draft form and still in discussions with Deans. He has not finalized any details. Provost encourages everyone to teach in Winter I and Winter II terms. He believes the staffing problems referenced by Chair Savard-Hogge may relate to the week of January 4. Regarding COVID-19 faculty concerns, HR is involved on the second or third level. Supervisor contacts the Provost directly then HR gets involved for any leave time related to isolation or quarantine. Regarding FS outstanding issues:

Dean's Survey: Provost has no idea what feedback may have been provided by Deans to former Provost Albert. The former Provost had requested feedback shortly after its conclusion. Russell provided his feedback as then Dean; he will contact the other Deans from that time for their responses.

Gray Associates- Plan developed that Deans are now evaluating. He has asked for their feedback within a week. Would like faculty to be reviewing programs by end of September.

UAR 137- He, the Deans, and Dr Morgan agree with suspending the UAR. However, the Deans and Dr Morgan think it's important to evaluate yearly performance with no ratings.

FYS Standing Committee- The President disagrees that there should be a standing committee for FYS.

Rapid Response Team- This group of people only serve the students. The Provost works within Academic Affairs to ensure spaces are managed and faculty have been notified.

#### Questions:

Senator Kmetz- (re closing later than 6pm) Cannot enforce health policies after 6pm as there are no personnel available after 6pm. To extend hours to 9pm runs risks with no personnel. Kmetz stressed that there are students behaving irresponsibly. Unless staffing is increased, does not see how CCL can remain healthy.

Provost- Claims to be making a plan with CCL Dean, David Gregory. The CCL is remaining open later because Emily Wiley, SGA President, and SGA, had requested later hours.

**Open Forum** with Deans Antony Norman, VCOE, and Scott Davison, CCAHSS. The open forum included a brief introduction from both Deans. When asked by Regent if he had

considered other ways to grow enrollment besides an increase in graduate students, Dean Norman said that he believes that the College of Education will see an increase of students. He has recently viewed state retirements and thinks that we will have a student increase because the state needs teachers.

**Faculty Regent Report-** No official report. The BOR has been given the institution's most recent Moody's fiscal rating report. Plans to speak to the BOR secretary, Jacqueline Graves, about communication. The BOR receives everything about athletics, but not the institution as a whole.

**Staff Congress Report-** Student employment group met to put into place the student employment workgroup findings. The health plan open enrollment begins within days and the Employee Benefits committee was not consulted in any way. There was no regard of the committee in releasing the August 26 information to campus.

**SGA Report-** Ward reported that he hoped to have the dog waste disposal bags stocked soon. There was no comment from SGA about the proposed Spring schedule.

### **Committee Reports-**

Academic Issues- Elected Vice-Chair Steve Chen. Looking into FYS-E course, QEP, Gray Associates, and General Education

Evaluation- Elected Alison Hruby Vice-Chair. Discussion of Spring 2020 Hybrid Faculty report presented to committee August 27. They are passing back the Fac180 findings to President Grupe and are looking forward to the Dean's Evaluation Survey.

Faculty Welfare and Concerns- Elected Timothy Hare Vice-Chair. During their meeting August 27, constructed a document with questions related to COVID-19 procedures. They are looking at the excused absence policy with differentiation for online classes and are addressing temperature and mold in buildings.

Governance- Elected Lauren Bates Vice-Chair. Reminded all Senators to contact their committees to meet by September 15 for organizational meetings.



**Adjourn-** 5:27pm