

COVID-19 - Campus Changes Related

Have been meeting with an “Insights Group” (HRM, VPFD, VPGS, VPSA & all presidents) As everyone has seen we had answers to many of our issues since our last meeting, some to our liking, others to various degrees

Topics being discussed will elaborate w/ questions, but some of the topics are ever evolving.

- Access for all faculty, as well as staff and students. Asking for better communication to all who need computer, wifi, etc. That the items/services are available.
- Access for faculty to offices to not only retrieve items, but to do occasional work. (Some building/schools are operating differently.)
- Mental Health - Access (Still unsure of answers to questions.)
- Reassurance that at the moment we are not in a hiring freeze - searches/hires are continuing (Changed and announcement coming - Also becoming discussion of furloughs, cuts, etc. Now more uncertain.)
- Status of Promotion & Tenure clock. (Announced)
- Statement regarding COVID-19, change of teaching, etc. on research and service (Not explicit)
- Graduation (Announced)
- Student Evals - Asked for elimination or statement that they would not be used in individual’s files this semester. If done they should be used for self-evaluation only. (Agreed, explicit in messaging from the VPFD Office)
- Parking - Removal of parking restrictions (done) Suspension of permit fees (Agreed)
- Grading for term - Pass/Fail, Credit/No Credit, extension of W period. (Announced)
- COVID-19 possible effects on sabbaticals for 20/21 (Announced)
- Suspend monetary holds on student accounts to allow them to register, etc. (Announced)
- Asked for 0% interest on emergency Endowment loans - (Agreed)

Non-COVID related Issues/Actions

9/12 Month Salary - Approved survey w/ FacEx March 17 delayed release for one week because of COVID-19 related changes. Sent out week of March 30th - The results are:

698 – people responded to the survey

Question 1:

I would like the option of being paid my nine (9) month salary s twelve (12) month period.

622- Responded Yes:

66 – Responded No:

Question 2:

If no, would you like to see the option available for those who wish to use it.

48-Responded Yes

20-Responded No.

Results and request to initiate the program will go to the Provost and Chancellor.

Professional Conduct Guidelines were discussed, and several questions were asked. This is an on going project.

Tuition Support - Larger waiver program to replace scholarship program passed this semester. (Answering questions proposed by Chancellor as we prepare to draft possible policy/ or program) Met with Matt Melvin about a feasibility study during Spring Break. Will follow-up this week regarding information. The Provost wants us to continue this work.

FRPR prepared a document “Know Your Rights”, which was reviewed by FacEx, and sent to Faculty Senate for approval. It now resides on the Governance web site: <https://governance.ku.edu/facultyrights>

FacEx and Faculty Senate approved the application process for the, when dealing with GRF funds. The allocations remain the same, the application process will be merged with the REI funds.

There is a request that the budget presentations done by each school in February, be shared with the faculty of the schools (not sure of the status of this)

The KBOR has been discussing program review. Recently the COFSP, have asked that during this time the program review initiative be put on hold.

Searches

D&E Search is concluding has selected finalists. Provost said search would continue despite hiring freeze. (Finalists currently being interviewed virtually.)

Undergraduate Studies Search all candidates have visited campus (Reiterated our position about a VP w/ a faculty line w/ Provost.) Not sure of status at the current moment.

FYE - Not sure about current status after failed search

Not sure of status of Edwards search, but it appears College leadership position will be conducted in the Fall.

Emergency Mtg Plan - This is the plan, procedures we are operating under at the moment. They were last updated in 2013. I suggested the we need to revise the plan after the COVID-19 crisis, in particular I suggested that the faculty president, and a faculty representative needs to be in the group. It is to administrative heavy and no faculty member has been involved in discussion of changes to the academic program during this crisis. (I have mentioned to the Chancellor & Provost that this plan must be revised after COVID-19)

Pending Amendments that have been approved by FacEx and Faculty Senate, and sent to the provost;

- Addition of Faculty Right #17, approved by FacEx and Faculty Senate. Sent to Provost Bichelmeyer February 26, 2020.
- FSRR 7.3 changing the dates from 14 to 30, in which a faculty member may appeal a decision of an administrative action. Approved by FacEx and Faculty Senate, sent to provost March 2, 2020.
- FRPR revised the FSRR Article X. Interim Administrators. This was approved by FacEx, Faculty Senate and sent to the provost on: Approved by FacEx and Faculty Senate, sent to provost March 2, 2020.
- Faculty Rights Board Procedures for hearing appeals regarding administrative actions. Approved by FacEx and Faculty Senate, sent to provost April 2, 2020.

Other issues addressed throughout the year:

Continue to monitor the budget model and how cuts are affecting units.

Gift policy-approved by SenEx and University Senate, this was brought forward by the FRPR committee in FY2018, and was revised and approved by SenEx/University Senate, the Provost and the Chancellor.

The Ukan Teach program was changed from the CLAS to School of Education, there was a large amount of confusion, and incorrect information that was stated. After many meetings, including meeting with the Dean of the School of Education, it was determined, that the same basic program would be available, it would be ran through the School of Education.

Concerns were raised about how the CLAS handed out the merit increases for faculty. It is hoped that the same procedures are not used in the future.

Interim Provost Lejuez met with FacEx and discussed the concerns that FacEx raised regarding the use of Academic Analytics. Lejuez added that his had the support of all the deans on campus. And stated he would ask each deans to share with their faculty how AA would be used. [Information never given by the deans.]

The KBOR discussed, Open Educational Resources (OER). Open Educational Resources are educational material that are open to the public or they have an open license. The goal is to keep textbook prices down.

Issued statement on May 10th regarding move of Chick-fil-A on campus. Continued discussions with administration throughout the summer & fall. Coordinated my work with SGDSFC and CGDS.

Faculty Ombuds search and appointment

Expressed concerns and gained changes in regards to implementation of DUO system, including confirmation that program existence on personal device does not make them discoverable, etc.

Graduate student issues. Stop-gap coverage agreed to, but longterm solution not resolved.

Began work on Absence Policy. Policy was drafted, brought to SenEx and then sent to committee.

Discussed Interim Provost Lejuez's plan to overall Graduate Studies - including bringing it within the Provost's office.

Discussed and worked with Interim Provost Lejuez on plan to name Interim Dean in School of Architecture and also plans to initiate a search for a permanent Dean.

Fall: Professional School on the Edwards Campus, was reviewed by FacEx, and approved by the University Senate.

The dependent scholarship program was discussed in great detail. FacEx suggested that this program be a scholarship program, to be set on a temporary basis, until an established Tuition Benefit program could be reviewed. The revised policy was approved by SenEx, University Senate, approved by the chancellor, revised, and approved again by SenEx and the University Senate, pending approval from the chancellor. [Continue work on a more robust tuition waiver type program]

A group has continued work with General Counsel to review judicial board documents. (see governance web page that is being revised <https://governance.ku.edu/jurisdiction>)

In December the interim provost spoke to faculty senate regarding the budget model.