

July 20 2020 FAC meeting  
(via Zoom)

Present: Maria Donoghue Velleca (Dean), David Armstrong (scribe), Josh Burk (co-Chair), Cathy Levesque, Peter McHenry, Jack Martin  
Regrets: Sarah Day (co-Chair)

We will be resuming formal FAC meetings through the remainder of the summer, with minutes recorded.

1) Report from the Dean: Maria discussed the results of the recent Mission Critical Budget exercise. The A&S budget is already very lean, and is dominated by salary and benefits. M&O budget cuts will not be done across-the-board, rather planned categories of expenditures in each department and program will be examined and budgets reduced depending on how critical the category is. Cuts of between 15 and 20% to those budgets will be typical. There were very few large pots of money identified in A&S that could be cut. One significant category of such funds are the research funds (as separate from salary stipends) associated with named professorships. We discussed the history of these funds. Maria suggested holding a meeting with the named professors to discuss the situation. The FAC supported this idea.

2) David informed that FAC that the position of University Ombuds is vacant at present (since May 2020) and the FAC noted the concern that the pandemic might cause an increased need for Ombuds service to faculty and staff.

3) David reported that the Provost is planning in a "listening session" with NTE faculty, to discuss her deferral of the promotions of a number of Lecturers to Senior Lecturer, and to discuss her plans to change the promotion process (add perhaps even the categories) of NTE faculty across campus, in order to harmonize different practices across the faculties and schools. The Dean will attend this session, assuming that the Deans of the Schools also will participate. The FAC discussed the morale problems raised by the promotion deferrals, and the variety of different policies and experiences for NTE faculty across the university. The FAC noted that university-wide changes to NTE policies should be considered by the Faculty Assembly, and should appear in the Faculty Handbook.

4) The Dean and the FAC discussed the recent sustainable curriculum analysis, which should allow A&S to better plan course offerings and course assignments, and which could allow better response to faculty going on leave and more effective allocation of precious resources such as visiting assistant professorships and adjunct faculty positions.

5) Adjourn