

Members present: Josh Burk (co-chair), Sarah Day (co-chair), Maria Donoghue Velleca (Dean), John Eisele (scribe), Peter McHenry, Marc Sher

- 1) Maria informed the committee of the current Covid 19 situation on campus, including how faculty have responded to and should respond to students missing class due to quarantine. Faculty should not take steps on their own but only in consultation with their department, and trust that the case management team will deal with issues that come up. Committee was informed of the current case numbers, percentage of vaccinated students and faculty, and rules governing student behavior in classrooms. However, no exact numbers should be made public since the numbers could change between the time of the meeting and the time they are published on Dashboard.
- 2) FAC and Maria discussed the Faculty Hiring Pilot report. Maria noted that the report comes from a non-academic office, but hiring is an academic matter, and asked the committee's reaction to the report. Some noted that there were problems with the wording of the report, especially as regards the definition of "inclusive teaching". It was pointed out that candidates for hiring new faculty in the STEM fields differ greatly from those in the humanities and social sciences, where graduate students have greater opportunities to engage in and develop teaching practices and experiences, while the same opportunities do not exist in graduate programs in the STEM fields. With regard to the wording, it was also noted that the administration should not tell faculty how to hire new faculty, but the report should be presented as guidelines for hiring, not as hard and fast rules. It was noted that the primary question that chairs should ask in meeting prospective candidates is: "What is 'inclusivity' in your field?" – since one can learn a good deal about individuals by asking questions such as this. Finally it was noted that it may be sufficient to say that one is open to diversity rather than ordering it.
- 3) Maria discussed the current CDEI situation, asking for recommendations to fill out the search committee for the new Dean of DEI. It was also mentioned that it would be good to have students involved in the interviews but not in the search decisions themselves.
- 4) Also discussed was the status of the new Faculty Grant Review Committee, with the first deadline being 9/15.
- 5) FAC and Maria discussed the agenda for the coming Faculty of Arts & Sciences meeting to be held via Zoom, as well as procedures for how to control the flow of questions and discussions so as to allow a reasonable amount of time for questions and discussions. The Provost will discuss changes in the Provost's office, including a new position for a Provost for International and Academic Affairs, and one for Research & Innovation. Among the initiatives to be discussed are the Sustainable Curriculum initiatives which will deal with the needs of our programs and ways to sustain them, to consider what is viable and valuable. Also, the Academic Leadership initiative, including changes in the DC program.
- 6) The meeting adjourned