

University Advisory Council Meeting Minutes  
 Friday, September 4, 2020  
 1:30 p.m. via Teams

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**Attendance:**

Name	Attended	Name	Attended	Name	Attended
Kameron Brooks	✓	Lyric Mitchell	✓	John Short	Excused
Albert Delia	✓	Amy Nightengale	✓	Cynthia Smith	✓
Noah DeMichele	✓	Bradford Nixon	✓	Jessica Thayer	✓
Johnston Hegeman	✓	Benjamin Norris	✓	Artie Travis	✓
Erica Kennedy	✓	Ronald Nowaczyk	✓	Donnell VanSkiver	✓
Michael Mathias	✓	Chelsea Schrader	✓	Leon Wyden	✓
Liz Medcalf	✓	Gregg Sekscienski	✓		

1. Call to Order at 1:31 p.m.
2. Introduction of Members
3. Updates from Governance Leadership
  - a. Faculty Senate
    - i. Agenda of proposals to vote on at meeting earlier this week. Discussions surrounding budgets due to COVID-19. Ideas were presented regarding ways to help with these challenges.
      - Rethinking tuition structure
      - Need for strategic enrollment strategy
      - Concerns surrounding administrator turnaround
      - Department savings options, such as eliminating phone lines
      - Cost of athletics
    - . Investigations are happening via the steering committee regarding reports of faculty not following mask protocol/social compact
  - b. Student Government Association
    - i. First meeting held last week and went well
    - ii. 13 new senators
    - iii. Fall retreat today and tomorrow to set goals for the year
    - iv. Assigned campus-wide committees today
    - v. Continued work with Brownsville Project
    - vi. Will be reviewing SGA policies
  - c. Staff Senate
    - i. Thanks to Reopening and Recovery Team
    - ii. Having a minor dispute with CUSS regarding number of representatives allowed
    - iii. Ombudsperson proposal and bullying policy: working with faculty senate to complete
4. Updates from Vice Presidents
  - a. Dr. Mathias:
    - i. intersession will be fully online 1/4-22; departments are beginning to schedule course offerings for spring, likely in a hybrid fashion. Semester to start 1/25.
    - ii. Strategic enrollment plan: working closely with other departments on developing this type of plan. Sees good opportunity with current restructure.

- iii. Academic Extension Program: opportunities offered off of campus and often to non-traditional students. Looking to evaluate the current extension program.
  - iv. Fall 2021: would like to institute a common reading program to be delivered through the ORIE program. This will enhance the first-year experience and improve campus connections for students on important issues. Each governance committee is asked to recommend 3 committee members to participate in creating this program.
- b. Dr. Travis
- i. Thanks to administration on restructure for Robyn Wydner.
  - ii. BLM event last evening was successful.
  - iii. Flu clinic is in the works.
  - iv. Increase in telecounseling.
  - v. Lane Center continues to provide engaging programming for students during the weekends.
  - vi. Mountain East career services areas are working on a virtual career fair for this fall.
  - vii. Stratified testing went well on Tuesday.
  - viii. Thank you to Reopening and Recovery Team.
- c. Al:
- i. Applied Research center on campus moving forward. We have taken over all of the vacant space in the ABC building with the intention of subletting it to businesses that will have affiliation with FSU.
  - ii. Office of Sponsored programs continues to do great work. Continue to see an increase in applications.
  - iii. Received a special grant related to COVID-19 to help connect legacy business in the region who are successful but who are looking to transition due to possibly not having anyone to hand their business down to. Connecting them with potential entrepreneurs.
  - iv. More businesses are looking to move to this area as companies realize that teleworking can be effective. Work doesn't have to be "the way it's always been."
  - v. Several companies are interested in creating a remote work center here.
- d. Dr. Nowaczyk:
- i. We are in surveillance testing now. Each school has a dashboard on their website.
  - ii. Have been asked by the system to potentially conduct another baseline testing round after Labor Day. More to come on this as more information is received.
  - iii. Help is requested from SGA to encourage students to participate in the surveillance testing. This week, many students chose not to participate. It is crucial to have their participation so that we can make sure we do not have a biased sample while looking at the data.
  - iv. Names and other information of those that test positive cannot be shared and would violate FERPA. Maintain the operating procedures that have been set up in the classrooms. Contact tracers will reach out to anyone that may have been in contact with someone that tested positive. The next Coffee with the President will include a representative from the Allegany County Health Department to help answer questions.
  - v. Stage 3 reopening for Maryland begins today at 5. FSU has not processed this fully to determine the impact of this for the university.
  - vi. State of the University will be held virtually. These will be posted on the website for about one week so that people can ask questions. Then virtual town halls will be held to answer those questions.

- vii. Commencement will likely be virtual for this semester.
  - viii. Provost search is underway with Academic Search consulting firm.
  - ix. Budget: Still awaiting finalized numbers from the state. We have a 3% hold back until we see what we get from the state. The budget will likely include a furlough or temporary salary reduction proposal for faculty and staff. This proposal is currently with the system and they may make a decision sometime next week. \$4.4 million is need in salary reduction savings. Administrative changes and reductions are underway. Changes will be taking place in admissions and recruiting. On campus tours will be changing to keep in line with social distancing guidelines.
5. Fall Operations Update: Brad Nixon
    - a. Discussed process for testing, how positives are contacted (including timeliness of contact,) and how testing data is gathered and input for dashboard reporting.
  6. Policy Review
    - a. Freedom of Expression & Chalking Policies (Previously Distributed)
    - b. Staff senate gives full support to both policies
  7. Follow-up to Summer Planning Session: Dr. Nowaczyk
    - a. Slide of 4 goals from summer planning session was presented and discussed
    - b. Search for an Admissions Director is ongoing
  8. Future Meeting Items
    - a. Racial/Social Justice
      - i. Discussions taking place with university presidents across the country surrounding the current climate of the nation. Dr. Nowaczyk has asked UCDEI to present a plan or recommendations for UAC to consider moving forward to address racial/social justice for the 10/2 meeting.
      - ii. Dr. Mathias reported on an initiative currently happening to review courses to identify any themes relating to racism, etc.
      - iii. Planning a campus climate survey
    - b. Strategic Plan Action Item Outcomes for 2021
      - i. 12 action items presented and discussed. These are goals being worked toward for 2023
  9. Adjournment

Next meeting: October 2, 2020

Submitted by: Donnell H. VanSkiver, CAP, MEP, OM  
Executive Administrative Assistant III