**UFS Agenda**

**Meeting: 2 December 2020**

**Consent Agenda**

*Logistical Items*

* Agenda and Minutes
  1. Mike highlighted that the January 20, 2021 UFS meeting conflicts with the presidential inauguration and wants to move the January meeting to 1/13/2021; a few team leads can only stay until 1 so we may adjust the agenda **M/S to approve minutes and agenda. Motion passed**

*Information Items*

* GSC Monitoring Statement
* Initial Board of Regents Implementation Team and Reports (multiple documents)
* Information on Testing and Campus Access
* CUSF Report

**Action items**

* Academic Policy Committee
  + Duolingo for English proficiency during the pandemic. This constitutes an emergency measure to use Duolingo instead of TOEFL because testing sites are closed. Some concerns were expressed over language proficiency declining over the years. International students’ office does have a comparison test. **M/S to accept this policy. Motion passed**
  + SAT/ACT waiver during the pandemic: The SAT/ACT waiver is another emergency measure for applicants with GPAs above 3.5 for fall. Recommend waiving through spring 2023 and use a more holistic approach. Admissions will use a rubric to evaluate candidates. The rubric will include grades, work experience, letters of recommendation, and personal essays. Admissions does not want to publicize the rubric but is happy to share it. Does this increase workload for Admissions? Admissions already looks at all documentation before arriving at a decision. M/S to accept this policy. Motion passed.
  + Agreements for 70 credit Community College transfers: UB currently only accepts 63 credits from community colleges. The proposal is to increase to 70 credits for select programs (which is similar to transfers from other 4-year schools). Accepting credit and fitting them into degree programs are separate issues. This typically works for allied health programs M/S to accept this policy. Motion passed.

**Strategic discussion Items**

* Resolutions from the SGA and Staff Senate
  + Automatic doors
  + Single use plastic
  + Diversity training
  + Academic flexibility (multiple documents) SGA is concerned that we will not take into account any difficult circumstances students may be facing. No school in the system is advocating eliminating grades but that does not mean we faculty can’t be imaginative, compassionate and kind. Also, if we refund students they will lose their financial aid. There is also a tuition appeal process. M/S to accept this policy. Motion failed.
  + **M/S** In light of the ongoing pandemic, the University Faculty Senate encourages faculty to be imaginative, compassionate, and kind in response to student crises that may have affected the fall term. Before finalizing grades for the semester the Senate encourages all faculty to clearly communicate to students a willingness to discuss adverse circumstances and class participation, the impact these might have had on their academic work, the options available to them, and any appropriate flexibility that can be offered while maintaining fairness to all students and academic standards. **Motion passed.**
* We are rearranging agenda to include Kurt who arrived earlier than expected.
* The Board of Regent’s Taskforce Implementation
  + Brief reports from available team leads
    - Branding and Marketing: Theresa Silanskis reported that the team has five subcommittees with a lot of task overlap. The team is meeting with Roxie in admissions.
    - Identify: Murray Dalziel reported having discussed the addition of the word “The” before University of Baltimore. Considering a shorthand of “Ubalt” instead of “UB”. Are discussing how we distinguish ourselves: only one of two law schools in state and only one with an undergrad program. Would like to support student engagement through service learning. Urges highlighting our special student populations (minority serving, veterans). They have a working group on course modality. Shady Grove also has a task force.
    - Enrollment Management and Upper/Lower division: Roxie Shabazz reports because she doesn’t know people she is working on personnel placement. Retention and Enrollment management collaborate soon and enrollment targets for Fall 21 22 are due. Discussing integrating 1st year students. Encouraging targeting Hispanic students. Admissions has hired a Latinx counselor. It is challenging given Covid.
    - Academic portfolio: Catherine Anderson’s team reports they are developing an annual assessment to include financial contribution of programs. Enrollment decline is steep. We must be Student-centric, engagement, quality, financial stability. Scorecard will be holistic and used every year. Want to develop a framework for collaboration across colleges. We also need to look at opportunities for growth. President must endorse the scorecard but anything related to curriculum must go to the faculty senates. Program directors need to weigh in about the best way to evaluate programs. Noted a disconnect between faculty governance and the Board of Regents recommendations. Kurt clarified that in his view the Board of Regents recommendations are not inconsistent with faculty-involved earlier decisions.
    - Student Experience: Nicole Marano reported having a 12/15 deadline to evaluate the overall student experience. They are using existing data that have been collected already. They will be looking at what themes emerge and identify the pain points. Also considering student and community engagement and internships.
    - Financial alignment: Beth Amyot reported that her outcome is a balanced budget in alignment with our identity and mission. Her team is integrated into all the other task forces. Some of her goals require collaboration. Do we have any comparison institutions by which we can see what has been successful? All implementation teams have been asked to include a fiscal impact in their reports.
    - Facilities: Neb Sertsu has close to 40 team members with 7 recommendations. First report is regarding course modalities for 2021 22. Largest challenge is a clear understanding of the financial targets. There are increasing numbers of students who want online and hybrid modalities. It might be premature to make that decision before we must assess. We know that day time is different than night. State metric is for daytime.
  + How are the teams coordinating?
  + What current sticking points exist?
  + Next deadlines

Upcoming

* UFS 20-21 meeting dates (all on Zoom)
  + Dec 2
  + **Jan 13 (Note this new date is to avoid conflict with the inauguration)**
  + Feb 3
  + March 3
  + April 7
  + May 5

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Eyssell, UFS Secretary