

GSW Faculty Senate Minutes
9/25/2020

1. The GSW faculty senate met on Friday, Sept. 25, 2020 at 10:00 AM via Blackboard Collaborate. Dr. Sam Peavy, president of the Senate, called the meeting to order. Minutes from the 8/28/2020 Faculty Senate meeting were approved by acclamation.

2. Dr. Suzanne Smith addressed the Senate regarding plans for commencement ceremonies in Fall 2020. To maintain social distancing practices, 3-4 ceremonies will be held, with students organized by the various GSW Schools. It was suggested that faculty of each School should select individuals to serve as mace bearers or in other such ceremonial roles. More information will be provided as plans are developed.

3. Dr. Liz Gurnack also addressed the Senate regarding business from the USG Council. She noted that there is currently discussion of adapting Title IX processes to meet current national policy guidelines. There is also discussion of creating a post-tenure review working group.

Finally, the USG Council notes concerns about 'hybrid ghosting.' In some cases, faculty have reduced in-person course sessions after the start of the term. There is no current universal definition of hybrid teaching, but the USG has emphasized that plans announced in the syllabus should be followed consistently.

Dr. Gurnack also noted additional Covid-19 concerns being discussed by the USG Council. These issues include questions about academic plans in case of faculty illness during the school terms and ventilation in some campus buildings. Some students in the USG system have refused testing to avoid being quarantined.

4. The Senate moved on to discuss items from Academic Affairs. A discussion was held about proposed Case Management and Care Coordination certificate, related courses to this certificate and the LTCM curriculum, and MKTG 4850. There was discussion of the number of units required in the CMCC certificate. All proposals were approved by the Senate.

5. Pres. Weaver addressed the Senate with updates regarding academic instruction concerns and budget negotiations. Dr. Weaver noted the importance of maintaining plans for teaching modalities announced in individual syllabi. Creativity in responding to unique campus needs is important so the priority is consistency in following announced educational plans. In response to a visitor question, Dr. Weaver reinforced that faculty have the responsibility to enforce masking requirements in all campus buildings.

Dr. Weaver also noted that budget negotiations are continuing so determinations about tenure and promotion remain to be formalized. Enrollment patterns were discussed with plans for continued exploration of specific campus patterns.

Dr. Weaver also stressed the importance of faculty re-applying for online teaching approval. Faculty wanting such approval should plan to re-submit all medical documentation for this process.

6. Dr. Sam Peavy adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:00.

Attendance: Sam Peavy (President), Susan Bragg (recording secretary), Carol Bishop, Queen Brown, Joseph Comeau, Suzanne Conner, Gary Fisk, Chadwick Gugg, Kim Hasbach, Benjamin Meador, Michael Moir, Debbie Palmer, Becky Short, and John Wilson. Dr. Neal Weaver and Dr. Suzanne Smith attended as ex-officio members. Dr. Elizabeth Gurnack attended as GSW's USG Council delegate and Lysa Chizmadia attended as observing participant.