

August 24, 2021

Faculty Senate PP Committee

Present: Herle McGowan, Jennifer Kuzma, Sarah Carrier, Walter Robinson, Leda Lunardi, and Tom Koch.

Convened at 3 p.m.

- 1) Two official Issues of Concern have been presented to the PP committee by Chair Berry-James.
- 2) Jennifer established a folder for our committee in Google Drive and emailed invite.
- 3) Herle created a new document summarizing IOC's of issue today with notes on those issues.
- 4) First IOC is that Faculty Senate should have a Zoom option for their meetings this year. Herle suggests a simple memo to the Senate that the Zoom option be retained for meetings this semester.
- 5) Second IOC was to urge a COVID vaccine requirement for faculty, staff and students at NC State. Herle drafted a resolution for the PP committee to review in response to this IOC. The resolution is designed to address some of the points raised in the UNC system memo to the chancellors of the universities in the system dated from April 29th 2021. This UNC memo gave several categories of reasons for not requiring the vaccine.
- 6) The PP committee felt that a few of the reasons for not mandating the vaccine in the 4-29-2021 memo may be outdated now that the vaccine is now fully approved by FDA (the Pfizer/BioNTech one) and other universities have mandated it, including state public and land grant universities.
- 7) The PP committee discussed that now that the COVID vaccine is fully approved that a statement in support for requiring the vaccine on campus could be made. There was discussion about to whom the statement should be directed—the UNC system or NC Commission for Public Health, etc. There was agreement for the statement to generally support a vaccine requirement without directing it at a particular decision maker or leader given the legal and decision making ambiguity (as also indicated by the 4-29-2021 UNC memo).
- 8) The PP committee discussed the language in the draft resolution and made some minor wording suggestions. It was decided without opposition to forward the resolution to Chair Dr. Berry-James for discussion at the next Senate Executive Committee meeting.
- 9) The committee discussed other informal IOCs (not submitted formally to PP yet) that they have been receiving from colleagues. Most fall under the concern about faculty autonomy on deciding instructional mode of classes during the rise in COVID cases. This issue was tabled for discussion for the next PP committee. Chair Berry-James mentioned other IOCs formally submitted and those relating to faculty autonomy on instructional mode may have been directed to the Academic Policy Committee. Herle and Jennifer will inquire at the next executive committee meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.