

TAMIU Special Faculty Senate Meeting

July 17, 2020; WebEx

I. The meeting was called to order by the Faculty Senate President, Dr. Lola Norris, at 12:05 p.m.

II. *Roll Call*: Dr. Lola Norris, Dr. Lourdes Vilorio, Dr. Marvin Bennett, Ms. Malynda Dalton, Ms. Vivian Garcia, Dr. Puneet Gill, Dr. Ariadne Gonzalez, Mr. Jose Gutierrez, Dr. Runchang Lin, Dr. Abby Lloyd, Dr. Gilberto Martinez, Dr. Neal McReynolds, Dr. Mehnaaz Momen, Ms. Angela Moran, Dr. James Norris, Ms. Kimber Palmer, Dr. Leonel Prieto, Dr. Kenneth Tobin, Dr. Ruby Ynalvez

III. *Our Guests* were given the floor.

Dr. Tom Mitchell:

Dr. Mitchell made several important announcements on the reopening of the campus:

- TAMIU is committed to opening the campus this Fall semester.
- The President is currently working on a letter that will go out to all students and faculty dealing with health, utilities and classes as we return to campus. After the President releases his summary letter the Provost will send faculty and students a Q & A to further address any questions/problems.
- Most courses will be taught as FLEX, meaning the students will have the option as to whether or not they wish to meet face-to-face or online.
- All class testing will be done through Blackboard and all written assignments through Turnitin software.
- It was asked that faculty be on campus for their office hours, but may communicate with their students remotely.
- They are currently working on classroom assignments so that social distancing can be maintained. Some large lecture classes and most labs will probably have to be taught with a student rotation.
- TAMIU is scheduled to receive 1000 Covid tests per month for faculty, staff and students. It is a mouth swab test with a 3 day turn around on the results.

Dr. Pablo Arenaz

Dr. Arenaz responded to questions regarding the re-opening of the campus:

- The city-wide curfew should not affect late-night classes or student research.
- Faculty can advise students about any necessary class/lab rotation through 'Course Messaging and Course Announcements' in Blackboard.
- If faculty have to cover for other faculty who become ill, there will be some form of recompense via overload pay, but only if it is for an extended period of time.... i.e. on a case-by-case basis.
- We do not have any idea about the number of students who will actually be returning to campus this Fall, but will be cautioning them about social distancing and wearing masks while on campus.

IV. New Business:

1. University awards - The Senate was asked if they could come on campus to examine the candidate dossiers between July 22 and August 20th. A vote was taken with 13 yes, 3 no and 1 abstain. A vote was also taken to have a special Senate meeting on August 21st for the purpose of voting on the candidates with a result of 14 yes, 2 no and 1 abstain.
2. Teaching portfolios - Still looking for input from all of the University Colleges. It was decided that the Handbook Committee should work with the Academic Oversight Committee concerning what content should be added to the Handbook about the portfolios and teaching rubrics.
3. It was announced that as of now there would not be student evaluations for classes this Fall.
4. Senator Vitoria announced that *Elearning* was hosting numerous webinars to aid in online teaching for the Fall.

V. Meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.