

Subject: Academic Senate Update
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020 at 2:36:00 PM Pacific Daylight Time
From: Wallace, Jeremy
To: All Faculty
CC: Claire, Michael E., Moore, Jamillah, Lopez, Kim, Jackson, Jannett, Taylor-Mendoza, Jennifer, Holtzclaw, Mike, Robinson, Tammy, Mitchell, Karrie, McVean, Aaron, Reed, David, Lacefield, Hyla, Carranza, James, Pouncil, Matais, Hartman, C. Max, Chapple, Tarana, Ridgway, Kristi, Diamond, Heidi, Demsetz, Laura, Wolf, Andreas, Frontiera, Charlene, Duncan, Krystal, Moe, Rolin, Kane, Michael, Morello, Jr., Joseph, Gibson, Chris, Hernandez, Raymond, Redding Lapuz, Danni, Escobar, Luis, Schwarz, Karen, Rojo, Richard
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Colleagues,

I wanted to provide a few updates before we head into spring break and get, hopefully, some much needed rest.

1. The District Academic Senate and AFT 1493 jointly agreed to the following faculty evaluation changes in light of the novel coronavirus pandemic:
 - I. If the classroom observation component of the evaluation has NOT been completed for an individual instructor, the evaluation process for this instructor will be moved to the 2020-21 evaluation cycles.
 - II. If the classroom observation HAS happened for an individual instructor, the evaluation process for this instructor will be concluded virtually with the following adjustments to deadlines:
 - a. Portfolios and student surveys shall be completed by Friday, April 17th (evaluators and evaluatees should collaborate on a way to get exchange hardcopy portfolios or utilize an e-portfolio)
 - b. The mandatory self-assessment shall be completed by the evaluatee by Friday, April 24th
 - c. The dean's assessment shall be completed by May 1st
 - d. The final meeting shall occur by the end of finals week (Friday, May 22nd). Because the campuses will be closed for the remainder of the semester, this meeting should be completed via Zoom or telephone conference.
***Again, these new deadlines only apply to evaluations in which the classroom observation occurred prior to the transition to virtual learning (March 12th).

The senate's main concern is that members of the faculty who have started this process (class observations, more specifically) be given the chance to finish it virtually this semester. It would not be acceptable for evaluatees who have been observed already to have to redo that aspect of the process next fall.

Finally, these changes still need to be enshrined in an MOU between the AFT and District, but considering that important evaluation deadlines are looming, I wanted to provide you all with this joint agreement. I don't see any reason why the senate and union's recommendation would be a problem for the district, and, hopefully, this MOU process will be completed by the time we return from spring break.

2. As you have heard from the district office, we will remain in an online/virtual modality for the remainder of the spring semester. The District Academic Senate held an emergency meeting yesterday to discuss this possibility and solicit feedback from the community. As a result, we supported Chancellor Claire's board recommendation that we finish the semester online in order to create more certainty and continuity for faculty and students. We will continue to advocate that Allied Health and Career Education programs have access to their labs and workshops at the earliest possible time in order to complete their disciplines' required hours.
3. The District Academic Senate will begin to hold weekly meetings every Monday starting April 6th. This is to ensure that the collective voice of the faculty is included in important decisions during these extraordinary, ever-evolving times. I will be sending agendas and Zoom information to all faculty the week prior to each meeting. The district will also be creating a shared governance committee of faculty and administration to continue to facilitate this transition from face-to-face to virtual learning. More details will be shared at the April 6th District Academic Senate meeting.

As Trustee Goodman reminded us last night, we all need to take care of ourselves and each other. Our teaching responsibilities are important but not to the detriment of our own physical and emotional well-being. This is why the senate has encouraged you all to continue teaching in a virtual format that you are comfortable with. We just need to ensure that students are learning and we are meeting our outcomes – you are the discipline experts so only you and your discipline colleagues can determine *how* that is accomplished in an online modality. And in this spirit of well-being, I'd like to encourage you all to reach out to each other and to meet for non-work reasons – start a book club, create a Zoom chat about a non-school topic, have a virtual happy hour. Isolation is not healthy and in light of the shelter in place order, we need to be creative in how we interact with one another.

And with that, I'd like to wish you all a relaxing spring break!

Jeremy

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