

University Committee on Women Faculty and Students
Tuesday, November 10, 2020
Meeting Agenda and Meeting Minutes
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Zoom Meeting:

<https://notredame.zoom.us/j/94118493704?pwd=eStyWjY1dmIEL1UrSnJKODJCby9XQT09>

Voting Members present: Laura Carlson, Steve Corcelli, Sarah Galbenski, Kristi Haas, Erika Hollelkus, Caroline Hughes, Krupali Krusche, Margaret Meserve, Tijana Milenkovic, Kristi Rudenga, Christine Trinter

Voting Members excused or absent: Bridgette Befort, Hong Guo, Rachel Ingal, Tamara Kay, Jennifer Mason-McAward, Francesca Murphy, Laurence Taylor

Non-voting Members present: Sara Agostinelli, Amber Monroe

Observers present: Sharon Keane, Matt Lahey, Maura Ryan, Pamela Young

Welcome: The zoom meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

Discussion on concerns the committee may have and what need to get done for the coming spring: Below are comments made.

- Laura Carlson led the meeting by citing an issue Notre Dame is having with students. For example, students not showing up for classes.
- Tijana Milenkovic asked if there is a committee program that support people of color to help navigate racial inequality? She was also concerned about teaching and classroom attendance and stated she was terrified to go back into the classroom, due to students storming the field after ND's victory over Clemson on Saturday, November 7th.
- Sara Agostinelli wanted to know what was driving the uptick in cases.
- Margaret Merserve wanted to know the negative test size of window that exist. She stated why would students come to campus wearing a mask, when they know they don't have to when they are online. She went on to say that people developed courses online because they did not know where they would be with Covid. Now its' not knowing where faculty emotions are. Faculty are trying to accommodate the students while remaining safe.
- Krupali Krusche stated that next semester, there will be weekly testing.
- Kristi Hass says there is an uncertainty of knowing if there will be an online class or not and this could be a problem for students. She also wanted to know if grad students will have available resources over the break because they rely on things being open.
- Laura Carlson stated that all students will be scheduled for exit testing prior to Thanksgiving break, beginning November 12. The University will place a registration hold on the record of any student who fails to appear for surveillance testing when asked to do so. This means that students will be unable to matriculate or register for classes next semester or receive a transcript. Students will not be allowed to leave the South Bend area until their test results have been received. Laura goes on to say that the

campus is not going on break and we will remain open. Some things will be open and available.

- Steve Corcelli was worried about the testing situation in the spring. He wanted to know how different is a heated tent versus indoors? He thought that tent ventilation is better than outdoors, but don't know how explicitly its' being looked at.
- Kristi Rudenga stated that there is an intense level of student distress and it is becoming hard.
- Laura Carlson mentioned that we have a "Fighting Irish Care" initiative to help reduce the burden students are feeling. She went on to say that if we find ways to ease things in classes, do it.
- Christine Trinter asked if we were getting a sense of in-person vs. virtual participation? She wondered if it is a convenience issue and asked if we have reached out to Rectors to help recognize stress?
- Laura Carlson replied by saying it is a climate shift.
- Sara Agostinelli mentioned that classes with 200 students now only have about 20 students showing up and went on to say that maybe it is a convenience vs. being afraid. She also agreed that it has been a cultural shift.
- Tijana Milenkovic would like to know where she can locate data that gives us data on online versus in person classes for grads and undergrads.
- Kristi Hass wanted to know if there is a way to get data on attendance drop off vs. computer classes, smaller vs. larger classes, online and in person. She went on to say that there is an uncertainty of knowing if there will be an online class or not and this could be a problem for students.
- Margaret Meserve stated that the whole experience of students trying to find a room to zoom in is hard or even trying to find a place where not to wear a mask is stressful.
- Sara Agostinelli suggested robot tracking and thought that this may be useful. She went on to say that it's an iPad on a stick and it has wheels and a base. It tracks the people in the room. Laura Carlson requested Sara to send her the info.
- Caroline Hughes stated that she have done more online than in-class instruction. She went on to say that there is no one solution. She also said that it is difficult to come up with the right policies because we are dealing with different people and situations.
- Margaret Meserve said that there have been various petitions on how to ease burden on junior faculty. She went on to say that there is a call to suspend non-essential service obligations and wanted to know why we do it if it is not essential. She also wanted to know if there is a way to think about service for women now and in the spring. Laura said we will talk about this in the spring.
- Tijana Milenkovic – stated that we need to go back to social justice and equity and inclusion. She said we need a climate change on campus. How do we make sure we are all on board? Tijana also shared a link in the chat titled "Study reveals gender bias in TA evaluation": <https://news.ufl.edu/2020/11/ta-bias/>

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.