Faculty Senate Report
Diane Al Shihabi, CoD Caucus Chair
23 Mar 2020

A. ISU’s COVID-19 Response

1. In response to parent and student concerns about COVID-19 and moving to online instruction, on March 15 the Faculty Senate voted and approved a joint statement. Statement will be released by President Wintersteen in an upcoming message. Provost Wickert has conveyed that they may concern of parents now has shifted to health of students, which the university is addressing.

2. For the Spring 2020 Semester only, ISU will allow undergraduate students to take courses (100-400 level) as Pass/No Pass. This was done to accommodate unexpected difficulties that students may face due to COVID-19 (family illness, unreliable internet, depression and so forth). See details on the link below:

https://www.provost.iastate.edu/academic-programs/pass-not-pass-option-for-courses-impacted-by-the-transition-to-virtual-instruction

3. The Graduate College is working on a similar process for graduate courses, which will be finalized shortly and communicated to academic departments via DoGEs. There are differences in opinion across colleges about how the process should be implemented, but Dean Graves of the Graduate School is working with DoGEs and the Executive Board to establish an acceptable solution.

4. The Provost’s Office is currently working with FDAR and the Executive Board to develop flexible options for student evaluations of teaching this semester. If student evaluations of teaching do occur, they will likely be at the discretion of the faculty member as to whether or not they will be used or not used in any time of evaluation.
   a. Give students a chance to vent, voice options
   b. If faculty do well they can use it

5. Faculty consideration and wellbeing is also in the process of being addressed. Several CoD faculty members brought concerns to the Caucus about complexity of implementing online instruction with small children unexpectedly home due to school closures. I have conveyed these concerns in detail to Senate President Jonathon Sturm in both phone conversations and emails. President Sturm agrees with these concerns and has asked President Wintersteen to address them. We will be in a virtual meeting with President Wintersteen later this week and hope to have more information. President Sturm has also had a number of conversations with Provost Wickert and Associate Provost Dawn-Bratch Prince. He has asked CoD Caucus Chairs to solicit suggestions from their Senators. Please pass your ideas onto your departmental senator or to Diane Al Shihabi, CoD Caucus Chair.

B. Other Current Faculty Senate Topics

1. ISU’s Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee is in the process of proposing a change in the Faculty Senate Handbook that would require 1) PRSs to include a measure of a faculty member’s activities related to equity, diversity, and inclusion and 2) to use the faculty member’s evaluation in this area in promotion and advancement decisions. The next step is for the proposal to be discussed and debated in college caucuses and by the Faculty Senate Executive Board.
2. **Student Evaluations of Teaching.** With COVID-19 issues front and center, the Faculty Senate’s discussion of student teaching evaluations and the planned survey of senators in relationship to it, had to be postponed.

3. CoD elections are complete and the List of CoD Faculty Senators for 2020-2021 Academic Year is included below. Congratulations to new senators Mikesch Muecke, Michael Martin, and Sung Kang.

   Mikesch Muecke, Arch (newly elected)
   Emily Morgan, Art & Visual Culture
   Julie Stevens, Landscape Architecture
   Deborah Tootle, CRP
   Andrea Quam, Graphic Design
   Diane Al-Shihabi, Interior Design
   Carlos Cardoso, Industrial Design

   **At-Large**
   Michael Martin, Landscape Architecture (newly elected)
   Sung Kang, Graphic Design (newly elected)

4. A ‘Workday Satisfaction Survey’ is being developed and will be sent to faculty members later this semester.