

YUMA FACULTY COUNCIL

Friday, August 7th, 2020

3:15-4:15 PM

Zoom Meeting

Meeting minutes

FACULTY PRESENT: Francisco Villa, Christopher Gore, Jason Bradley, Amalia Garzon, Karen Harag, Rakesh Pangasa, Alex Steenstra, and Alma Sandigo

I. Call to Order: 3:18pm

II. Selection of Recorder: Karen Harag

III. Approval of the minutes: Not applicable

IV. Announcements

A. Website to house YFC documentation

Francisco Villa presented the new Yuma Faculty Council page hosted on the NAU-Yuma website. He conveyed that this was made to increase overall access and ease of access for all interested parties. It can be found by navigating from the NAU-Yuma website at: nau.edu/yuma and then using the menu About> Mission and Goals > Yuma Faculty Council (Link on right). The site currently includes access to Meetings, Minutes, and other supporting documents.

The direct link is <https://nau.edu/yuma/home/yuma-faculty-council/>

Chris Gore expressed appreciation, saying it is wonderful.

V. Current/Ongoing Business: None

VI. New Business

A. SARS-CoV 2 Pandemic

1. Faculty needs/concerns

2. Student needs/concerns

Alma Sandigo observed that students are being flexible, but recommends that this point be revisited after the semester begins.

B. University Committee updates not represented in all departments

1. Liberal Arts Committee update

Seeking input on status of these and other committees that require appointments.

Amalia Garzon conveyed the importance of the Liberal Studies committee and other committees to hold an NAU-Yuma voice. Expressed that she would serve if needed, but would like to see nominations from other faculty. Alma Sandigo indicated that the Diversity Curriculum committee is also in need of an appointee.

Alex Steenstra suggested that a call for nominations, self or otherwise, should be sent to the faculty. Alma Sandigo made a motion to send a call for nominations to then be voted on by the Yuma Faculty Council for appointment. Alex Steenstra seconded the motion.

Francisco Villa inquired if there were other committees or positions that may also require nomination and discussion. Jason Bradley expressed that NAU-Yuma nursing faculty are asked to participate in this manner by the School of Nursing

department, and so will not be likely to be available for these postings at this time. Amalia Garzon brought forward the University Undergraduate Committee as another group in need of an appointee. She expressed that her position in the Promotion and Tenure committee for the Yuma campus will need to be replaced as she is no longer able to participate. She expressed concerns and uncertainty about requirements for participation in this and other committees, with specific focus on tenure status. Jason Bradley suggested that junior faculty members to participate in these committees.

Resolved: Given the scope of uncertainty, Francisco Villa will seek clarification from Dr. Sabath and campus leadership regarding the appropriate procedures for filling these roles. At this time, it seems that the entire Promotion and Tenure committee will need to be entirely reformed with no legacy members.

C. OBC update:

Francisco Villa reported that the OBC is processing curriculum changes to unify the Psychology program with Flagstaff campus. The Bachelor's in Social Work Chris Gore asked: What is the primary difference between a Yuma-based and Flagstaff-based program?

Francisco Villa explained it is where the primary control in decision making for changes is made. For the Yuma Biological and Natural Resource Sciences program, this decision making power resides in Yuma, but for Psychology these decisions will be made in coordination with Flagstaff, with the ultimate decision coming from Flagstaff. This includes what courses are included in the curriculum and what these courses are comprised of. Jason Bradley added that with Nursing, an advantage of the Flagstaff-based program is engagement with the colleges in Flagstaff. A strong relationship can lead to influence, input, and consideration in the larger program of the needs of Yuma students and courses. Alex Steenstra summarized the nature of the relationship between Yuma and Flagstaff in these situations has positives and negatives and varies by program.

VII: Good of the Order:

Stay healthy, stay safe.

Chris Gore expressed dismay at the dichotomy with students who express a strong desire to have full in-person classroom experience. Rakesh Pangasa assured Dr. Gore that it will get better and advised to take it one day at a time. Jason Bradley commiserated, adding that NAU classes should have priority in NAU buildings!

VIII: Next meeting: Thursday, September 10, 2020 2:00-3:30 PM, Zoom

IX: Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Alex Steenstra; Chris Gore seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 4:04pm.