

Alexandria Campus Forum Council
Sept. 18, 2020
Minutes

The meeting occurred via Zoom. Stacy Slaten called the meeting to order at 12:35, following a few minutes of general chatting.

I. Reviewing topics from last year

- A. We discussed the survey results from the “Best Places to Work” survey. If memory serves, the College Senate had voted to participate again, after Dr. Kress finishes her first year. Stacy will send a motion to Senate (to Donna M.) that NOVA prepare to participate again in 2021.
- B. We discussed the procedure for Senators getting a sub if they cannot attend a Senate meeting. Per Donna, the sub has to be from the same category (e.g., teaching faculty).
- C. Stacy will send Donna the names of our two student representatives, asking if they can attend Senate meetings too.

II. Discussion of proposed IT policy

Every Forum Council is to discuss the new proposed IT policy and forward comments back to Senate. Stacy will create a Google form. Beth will paste in the comments from our discussion, but FC members can edit or add comments.

Concerns from our discussion:

- A. Per the policy item 2f, “College computers are for college work only and not for personal use.” This is overly restrictive. Employees should be allowed to use the laptop/computers for personal use, such as personal email or online shopping. The lines between work and home are increasingly blurred, especially during the pandemic. Faculty and staff are using their own equipment for work (e.g., chairs, headsets, art supplies, tablets). Why is the policy so harsh?
- B. How is IT going to determine what is work use and what is personal use? Depending on one’s discipline and workload, looking at Netflix, Amazon, or seemingly “bad” websites (e.g., domestic terrorism, human sexuality) are being done for work.
- C. Why would faculty have to pay extra to use a Mac? There are some programs/software that faculty need Macs in order to teach. On a related note, some disciplines are better served with tablets (iPads) instead of laptops. The technology should match the faculty need.
- D. For faculty who currently have Mac desktops, why would they have to return those in order to have the home laptop? The home laptop may be required now for Zoom teaching but the Mac is still required for software/work.
- E. We understand the IT department’s wish to protect the network. However, there are ways to protect the network without adding such strict limitations. IT should provide parameters for employees to keep ourselves and the networks safe while still protecting academic freedom.

- F. We did not think that the policy states this, but just to be clear – faculty are not being told that they MUST use the college laptops for work? Many (most?) faculty already use their own computers for work/Zoom teaching. Is that still allowed? We believe that it is appropriate to require Canvas, Zoom, and college email systems but NOT appropriate to require the use of college hardware.

Stacy will also share our comments with Matt Todd, who is the AL rep to the policy committee.

III. Committee-related business

- A. Teba found two faculty for the Instruction and Student services Committee ISSC. They are Courtney Walker (MSTB) and Brian Vogt (LASS).
- B. Marilyn is chairing the Elections and Credentials committee. She asked for us to give her any ideas to increase nominations. Some ideas that arose:
- Recruit and encourage now, as faculty are creating APPDOs (smart goals) for 2021.
 - Considering changing the meeting day/time.
 - Those of us on FC should tell our stories. We can discuss the relationships that we've formed and/or what we have learned about the campus. Kirstin agreed to assist the Elections and Credentials Committee with creating a short video of interviews that promotes the Forum Councils (similar to Story Corps).

IV. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) proposals

Stacy reported that some campuses and units may have to review their DEI goals. We agreed that our FC put ours together hastily in the summer due to the short window we had. We are going to have a longer, deeper discussion of DEI issues at the October meeting. In the meanwhile, we will look for DEI-related data to share among ourselves.

In attendance:

Stacy Slaten, Nakul Kumar, Maggie Emblom-Callahan, Marilyn Odaka, Teba Aljumaili, Chevella Wilson, Rebecca Carrier, Kirstin Riddick, Jessica Gardner, Beth Lanthier, Diyora Shodmonova (student), Sarah Youssef (student)

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Lanthier