FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 7, 2020

Members present: Zachary Brewster, Bradley Smith, Victor Figueroa, Aaron Retish, Larry Lombard, Lisa Ze Winters, Lori Pile, Karen Marrero, Michael Belzer, Leisa Kauffmann, Charles Parrish, John Klein, Smiti Gupta, Fatih Celiker, Thomas Killion, Christopher Trentacosta

Attending: Stephanie Hartwell, Caroline Brzuchowski, Ratna Naik, Ken Jackson, Claudio Verani, Paul Clemens, Heather Dillaway, Matt Allen, Regina Zibuck, Eric Hiddleston, Mark Vanberkum, Alisa Moldavanova, Andrea Matti, Nathan Chavez, Stuart Baum, Kyu-Nahm Jun

Absent with Notice: Lara Jones, Edward Golenberg

The Zoom meeting was called to order at 9:05.

The minutes of the April 02, 2020 meeting were approved as amended.

Mark Vanberkum provided the report from the college’s Budget Advisory Committee, noting that the theme of the committee’s discussion was uncertainty. The college was already preparing for a $1.8 million cut (3%) when the pandemic occurred. Citing the president’s e-mail to campus, Vanberkum noted that budget reductions could now be in the 5-15% range.

There was discussion of enrollments, which are up overall for fall thus far, with undergraduate increases and graduated decreases being seen. Where fall enrollments end up remains difficult to predict. Aaron Retish asked about state appropriations, which are also uncertain.

Nathan Chavez from C&IT, along with Stuart Baum of the Student Senate, spoke of the new Course Information Matrix, which will make more information regarding courses available to students. It will serve as an archive of information about past courses, Chavez said, and not as a predictor of future course content. It is presently stored in Canvas, and C&IT hopes to add it to the class schedule when more content is available. Heather Dillaway and Zachary Brewster spoke of the changes to the Sociology MA and the Sociology minor, both of which were approved.

Ken Jackson introduced the “Knowledge On Demand” proposals: a graduate certificate in Health Care Ethics from Philosophy; a graduate certificate in Non-Profit Management from Political Science; and a Gateway to Science undergraduate proposal from
Chemistry. Council gave all three programs, funded by the provost’s “Knowledge On Demand” initiative, preliminary approval, with all three required to return to the council for formal approval in fall.

Caroline Brzuchowski noted that the college elections have been completed.

Stephanie Hartwell noted that there are nine committees looking at the reopening of campus, and that she is on the Restart Committee. She predicted hybrid classes for the fall.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30.