

Executive Committee of the AFSE
Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2020

Present (via Zoom): David Brafman, Samantha Brunhaver, Christopher Buneo, Michael Goryll, Marcus Herrmann (Chair), Rosa Krajmalnik-Brown, Anthony Lamanna, Douglas Montgomery, George Pan, Rod Roscoe, Sefaattin Tongay, Yalin Wang, Dianne Hansford (Secretary)

Guest (via Zoom): Kyle Squires

1. **Approval of April 2020 EC Minutes.** Minutes of the April 2, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously.
2. **Spring 2020 online teaching and exams best-practices update.** The Executive Committee was asked to look at best practices for exams. Is this still relevant since exams starting shortly? Kyle: yes, we need more information for the fall semester.
The university is exploring ways we could be on campus in the fall, which could mean a lower density version of campus activities. We may also enter fall semester with all classes being offered in a hybrid fashion, where some students attend in-person and others attend via Zoom, thus online teaching will still be relevant. Protecting older faculty is a concern. Decisions on what type of classes will be offered have not been made yet. Some classes are going to be more amenable to remote delivery. Planning for face-to-face lab classes should be going on right now. How do we build lab classes? How to reduce contact/size/density when face to face needed?

When we compensate faculty for summer teaching we have to have one model. The university has guidance on what that compensation structure should be. Doing that will eliminate faculty choosing one compensation style over another.

Is there room for innovation and risk taking in teaching methods? Should we play it safe with the way we're handling things now? If you take risks and things go back, how do you handle that messaging to students? To what extent are we comfortable with risk taking? Immediate innovation is needed in assessment and high stakes exams. Emphasizing the honor code and eliminating proctoring is one option. The honor code has been pushed in ASU 101, so students are familiar with it. Take home exams have problems because they appear on websites almost immediately. Adding a big project instead of a final exam is another option. This can be coupled with an oral exam or student presentation. Perhaps due to the stress of the times, Chris reported higher than normal incidence of conflicts in team projects. Peer reviews are important to judge what is going on. George made the point that innovative ideas are more difficult to implement in lower level courses than higher level ones.

How should we interpret student evaluations in spring teaching for this semester? It's important for us to be aware of this for junior faculty where it matters more. It would be interesting in looking at the student comments. We need unvarnished feedback. We need to do a good job of questioning.

Use of the "Y" grade was brought up. The "Y" grade indicates pass, equivalent to a C but doesn't impact GPA. Not sure students are being done a service by getting a "Y" grade. Yalin commented that some CIDSE faculty were considering giving a "Y" to all students who requested it. It's a faculty's decision to give it but the Dean doesn't think it's a good idea.

3. **Impact of Covid-19 on Fall 2020 and beyond update.** Deferred to June agenda.

4. **Discuss changes to dean's dissertation award process.**

We've discussed increasing the number of awards to one per school or six. Up to now we've had two students eligible. If there is no viable candidate in a school, then that's ok. The best student would be recognized with a certificate of recognition.

The nomination specifications for school directors and the specifications for the students remain unchanged. The winners within each school should give a two minute flash presentation at the FSE townhall. Committee members can discuss applications with the students.

The challenge is timing. How can we combine this to include a poster session at the Distinguished Lecture, where we highlight research done at ASU to people from outside?
Can the poster session be a part of the selection process? Is there an event in early Fall for this? Should the Distinguished Lecture be moved?

If one goal of the award is to help students get faculty positions, then this early November date should be considered in the timing.

This fall we will not have public events, so planning can wait.

Across FSE each year we graduate about 150 Ph.D. students. To get all the way down to two -- those students will be exceptional. The purpose of the award is to help students apply for academia jobs. These things are very important for the students. Should we only hope for two of our students to get an academia position? Wouldn't we have to give the other students a leg up as well? The current proposal of six represents 4% of the PhD candidates. It makes more sense to specify the number of awards as a percentage of the population of PhD candidates. Additionally, the requirement of one per school could be dropped.

ACTION ITEM:

Chair will send planned changes to the committee before sending to the Dean.

Timing note from Annette Bowers: print deadline for the commencement program is October 11.

5. **Discuss Dean Squires comments on non-T/TT faculty serving as PI's and chairing master's theses.** The EC sent some memos to the dean regarding these two topics. The next draft of these documents will deal with research faculty separately from lecturers and professors of practice.

ACTION ITEM:

The updated memo will be distributed for review by the EC
and then either voted upon at the next meeting or forwarded to the Dean.

6. **Brainstorming for AY 2020/21.** Deferred to June agenda.

7. **Other Items from EC Members.** It was decided that the Executive Committee will continue to meet throughout the summer for the months of June, July and August. The regular meeting schedule will begin on Friday, September 4, 2020 at 12:00 pm in BY 420.

Next meeting: June 5, 2020; 11:30 a.m.; Zoom