Minutes CLAS Faculty Council Meeting September 30, 2020

In attendance: Charles Baer, Rori Bloom, Stephanie Bogart, Nina Caputo, Andrea Caloiaro, Daniel Contreras, Paula Golombek, Selman Hershfield, Aida Hozic, Nancy Hunt, Valarie Kleiman, Stephen Perz, David Richardson, Tarek Saab, Ben Smith, Marin Sorbille.

The meeting is called to order at 10:40am.

Stephanie says that the proposed changes to the title of Lecturer have been postponed to the spring. Sean Trainor will be at the next Faculty Council Meeting to discuss the proposal.

The discussion then moved to the possibility of furloughs. The survey created by Stephanie, Aida, and others has had a good completion rate with several hundred faculty responding. Aida said that there are three ways to offer comments on the furlough policy: the UF senate web site, the union, and the steering committee of the faculty senate, which will also include assembly and faculty council chairs.

There was broad support that the furloughs should be fair, including administration as well as teaching faculty, and progressive with larger reductions for higher paid personnel and sparing the lowest paid employees. Many issues were discussed with respect to furloughs such as what form the furloughs will take and whether faculty will have access to offices and labs during a furlough.

The BOG requirement that the university fully utilized its space for the Spring semester was also discussed. According to Dean Richardson, the present interpretation of this is that there needs to be as many face-to-face sections in spring 2021 as in spring 2020. There are many issues with most classes having a face-to-face component: who gets to go in the face-to-face section, will instruction be detrimentally effected because instructors need to divide their time between students present in the classroom and those online, and what happens to a face-to-face section if an instructor needs to isolate due to COVID-19.

The council agreed to draft a statement voicing concerns for both the furlough policy and the face-to-face teaching in spring 2021, including the results of the survey as well. Nancy and Rori will make a first draft comments and Stephanie will write draft of propositions on the Furlough policy, but everyone will be invited to participate in the Google doc of the draft. Stephanie and Aida will present the statement and the results of the survey at the Senate steering committee meeting tomorrow.

The meeting adjourns at 12pm.