University Senate

November 20, 2019
2:45PM – 4:30PM
Alumni House
Zina M. Lawrence, Chair

MINUTES


I. Meeting commenced at 2:55 pm

II. Quorum was not reached: Chair Lawrence determined that voting could not proceed but that the meeting could proceed with presentations and reports.

III. Presentation: Sustainability Plan Update – Mary Ellen Mallia

- Mary Ellen Mallia gave a presentation and responded to questions.

IV. Senate Chair’s Report – Zina Lawrence

- Chair Lawrence provided an update on the Elsevier contract.
- She also shared about the budget presentations by VP for Finance and Administration Todd Foreman, and indicated that the whole University needs to play a role in helping to improve enrollment which will lead to a healthier financial state. She also encouraged senators to get involved with advocacy to increase State funding. Finally, she highlighted the cost of attendance for students and encouraged senators to consider all methods to offset the expenses for our students including use of Open Educational Resources.
- Members made announcements about upcoming events.
- A guest shared that information needs to be shared with senators and others earlier for greater participation. Chair Lawrence indicated that she agreed with this, and explained the ways in which the process leading up to materials being shared can sometimes result in delays, but expressed that nonetheless she will make a greater effort to share materials more widely and earlier.
There was a discussion about how to solve the quorum issue. Suggestions were made about how to encourage and incentivize participation, and a recommendation to change quorum. There was a suggestion to distribute a survey to better understand why members are missing meetings.

V. Meeting adjourned at 4:05pm