

MINUTES

UFO Executive Board Meeting
3 April 2020
Held via Zoom
11:00 a.m.

Executive Board Members present:

Jeff O'Connell
Rob Smedfjeld
Janice Jones
Heather McCarty
Jeffrey S. Dean
Teresa Massimo
Andrea Brown

A meeting of the UFO Executive Board took place on Friday, April 3, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom.

O'Connell updated the Board about the situation with the faculty in Nursing/PTA/RT and what is being done with their student lab requirements that have been affected by the shelter-in-place order and restrictions at health care facilities where students do part of their training. The administration is trying to figure out if it will be possible for that area to get an exemption to allow students to graduate without the site training element.

There was an update about language being used when classes "can't continue" and whether they will use the term "suspend the class" rather than the word "cancel." The term "suspend the class" allows for faculty to continue to be paid and assigned to a task, possibly a non-classroom one or a designated training. Part of this language relates to students being allowed to apply for tuition refunds.

Discussion continued, led by O'Connell, about plans for summer training for faculty and that there might be "two tracks" of four weeks over the summer. It is speculated and certainly affirmed by the members of the Executive Board that this training should be considered as work requiring compensation/payment to faculty.

Since the TA was approved, it was noted by O'Connell that we need to have an election for Chief Negotiator. Dean will send out a call for nominations and we will then have, with the assistance of Reichert, an election for that position. There will be a two-week period for the nomination then an election that would run for one week.

Various topics involving the need for a new MOU with the District were discussed by the Board. These were identified as suspension of evaluations, and remote instruction/distance education issues. Jones raised her concerns about Early Childhood Studies and how the move to remote instruction and the closing of training sites affect those students.

Smedfjeld initiated a discussion about how the use of the "emergency" situation might affect how we as a union need to be conscious of parties "asking" rather than "dictating" how decisions would be made. He raised concerns about how this situation would affect Senate's power to control curricular decisions and the District possibly putting faculty in the situation of being "forced" to an assignment.

O'Connell indicated that he would be in contact with the UFO's lawyer to discuss the issues that have come up that possibly require the use of an MOU, since we are certainly not the only college dealing with the challenges that have arisen and knowing what other colleges have done might be helpful to us.

Smedfjeld asked the group for their thoughts about whether or not a CEER meeting should be called to help work out some of the issues that have arisen in an informal way, but noted that there was still the need to formally negotiate and put those negotiated items into writing.

Respectfully submitted by Jeffrey S. Dean, Secretary of the UFO, on April 15, 2020.