

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

June 8, 2020 – VIRTUAL SENATE MEETING

(<https://udel.zoom.us/j/92672508109>)

4:00 PM

June 1, 2020

TO: Senators and Executives

FROM: Lynnette Overby, Vice President
University Faculty Senate

SUBJECT: Special Faculty Senate Meeting June 8, 2020

In accordance with Section IV, paragraph 6 of the Constitution, the regular meeting of the University Faculty Senate will be held on Monday, June 8 at 4:00 p.m..

The Agenda will be as follows:

AGENDA

- I. Adoption of the Agenda**
- II. Approval of the Minutes: [May 4, 2020](#)**
- III. Remarks:** Provost Robin Morgan
- IV. Announcements:** Senate President Matthew Robinson
- V. Regular Agenda:**
 - A. Unfinished Business:** None
 - B. New Business:**
 - 1.** Recommendation from the Emergency Task Force (Matthew Robinson and Lynn Okagaki, Co-Chairs) with the concurrence of the Executive Committee (Matthew

Robinson, Chair) for the **approval of a resolution concerning Test Optional for all students applying for admission fall 2021**

WHEREAS, the pandemic has prevented many high school students from taking the SAT or ACT this spring, and

WHEREAS, both testing agencies are uncertain about when they will be able to resume testing, and

WHEREAS, in response many colleges and universities are moving to a test-optional review process for the coming cycle, and

WHEREAS, the University of Delaware has been piloting test optional review of SAT and ACT tests for Delaware residents, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that all students who apply for admission for fall 2021 can be considered without submitting SAT or ACT scores.

2. Recommendation from the Emergency Task Force (Matthew Robinson and Lynn Okagaki, Co-Chairs) with the concurrence of the Executive Committee (Matthew Robinson, Chair) for the **approval of a resolution concerning the Temporary Removal of the 2 online course limit**

WHEREAS, it is necessary to implement social distancing (i.e., 6 ft separation between people) to ensure safety and wellbeing of the UD community at this time, and

WHEREAS, implementation of social distancing significantly decreases our classroom seating capacity such that the vast majority of courses will need to be taught online, and

WHEREAS, the University may have to return to all online instruction, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the Academic Credit Policies: Online Course Enrollment Rules of the Course Catalog (<https://catalog.udel.edu/content.php?catoid=29&navoid=3555#online-course-enrollment-rules>) be temporarily suspended for the fall semester of the 2020-2021 academic year, allowing students to take more than 2 online courses per semester.

3. Recommendation from the Emergency Task Force (Matthew Robinson and Lynn Okagaki, Co-Chairs) with the concurrence of the Executive Committee (Matthew Robinson, Chair) for the **approval of a resolution concerning Common Exam Times – Faculty Handbook Section 3.1.4 Examinations and Tests**

WHEREAS, it is necessary to implement social distancing (i.e., 6 ft. separation between people) to ensure safety and wellbeing of the UD community at this time, and

WHEREAS, implementation of social distancing significantly decreases our classroom seating capacity and may result in course schedules running later in the day, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the common exam schedule (<https://facultyhandbook.udel.edu/handbook/314-examinations-and-tests>) will be temporarily altered for the fall semester of the 2020-2021 academic year, to extend as late as 10:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and Saturday will remain from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. as shown in **Attachment 1**

Attachment 1: Common examinations will be scheduled ~~only from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.~~ as late as 10:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Rev. 4/2013)

4. Recommendation from the Emergency Task Force (Matthew Robinson and Lynn Okagaki, Co-Chairs) with the concurrence of the Executive Committee (Matthew Robinson, Chair) for the **approval of a resolution concerning Teaching Online Classes – Faculty Handbook Section 3.1.14**

WHEREAS, the University would like to bring students back to campus for the fall 2020 semester, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to implement social distancing (i.e., 6 ft separation between people) to ensure safety and wellbeing of the UD community at this time, and

WHEREAS, implementation of social distancing significantly decreases our classroom seating capacity such that the vast majority of courses will need to be taught online, and

WHEREAS, the University may have to return to all online instruction, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that a portion of Faculty Handbook 3.1.14 be temporarily suspended for the fall semester of the 2020-2021 academic year as shown in **Attachment 1** to support online teaching opportunities.

Attachment 1

The University of Delaware is committed to the use of innovative and online technologies to enhance and extend learning in undergraduate and graduate programs, both on and off campus. The University has a long history of academic excellence founded on traditional classroom instruction, which should remain the educational standard on the Newark campus. It is increasingly clear, however, that innovative online techniques and courses can enhance learning for students on campus and extend learning to students at a distance. Therefore, online and other technologically enhanced and innovative methods of instruction are encouraged when appropriate for increasing educational effectiveness.

For purposes that require it, the University defines "online" course sections or programs as having 80% or more of their content delivered online, which follows an industry standard definition. It is recognized that most courses currently incorporate some lesser amount of content delivered online, either as an integral part or as supplementary, and are thus considered to be "web-facilitated," "blended," or "hybrid." As with more traditional in-person courses and programs, the development of online courses and programs must be based on sound educational principles. It is up to the faculty member and their academic unit (e.g. department and/or college curriculum committees) to ensure the appropriate incorporation of effective online techniques. As are all courses and programs, online and hybrid courses and programs shall be reviewed and approved by the Faculty Senate if they have not been approved previously as in-person versions. Additionally, online course sections and programs shall be subject to the same periodic review and assessment by academic units as are in-person versions.

Student enrollment limits on online course sections shall be determined by the academic unit, as they are for in-person courses. Online course sections preferably will be taught by full-time University faculty to maintain educational quality and consistency. Online course sections shall not be used to replace faculty, ~~and faculty shall not be required to teach online course sections;~~ and faculty may be assigned to teach online course sections. On occasion, it may be desirable to employ entities outside of the University (i.e. third party contractors) to assist in facilitation of online programs. Faculty must maintain responsibility and control over online course content and assessment. The use of third party contractors shall be restricted to student recruitment and retention, program marketing, design and technology support, and similar activities. Third party

contractors shall not be used for primary instruction or final assessment of student learning. (Rev 5/2013)

5. Recommendation from Co-sponsoring Senators: Galileo, Overby, Williams, Hagstrom, Bhat, Custer, Raible, Buttrey, Morling, Orsega-Smith, Hestvik, Sundaram, Inguito, Stevens, Morrison, Doty, and Laberge. for the **approval of a resolution to Allow Faculty the Option to Teach Courses Online in Fall 2020**

WHEREAS, the Human Resources Policy on "Extreme Weather and Emergency Conditions", states "The University does not expect employees or students to take unnecessary risks to meet their work or learning obligations during adverse weather or emergency conditions.", and

WHEREAS, potential COVID-19 transmission in a classroom setting could put faculty members at unnecessary medical risk, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that for the Fall 2020 Semester, if a faculty member believes they would be taking an unnecessary medical risk by teaching a course in a classroom setting, then the faculty member may opt to teach that course in an online format.

VI. Introduction of New Business:

Call a special meeting within 7-14 days of the present special meeting to discuss and vote on amending the Constitution and any other resolutions put forth by Senators or the Senate Executive Committee. (Requires 50% of the Senators to approve)

New Business Announcement

Recommendation from Co-Sponsoring Senators: Galileo, Hagstrom, Bhat, Custer, Raible, Buttrey, Orsega-Smith, Hestvik, Sundaram, Inguito, Morrison, Doty, Laberge, Obrusnikova, Rakesh, Biddle, Busch, and Fuhrmann for the approval of a **Resolution Revising Section 1.1.4.6 of the Faculty Handbook (Constitution of the Faculty of the University of Delaware)**.

WHEREAS, it is important to provide flexibility to conduct Senate meetings in Special Session, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that Section 1.1.4.6 of the Faculty Handbook be revised to provide two additional conditions for holding special meetings as shown in **Attachment 1**.

Attachment 1

1.1.4.6 Faculty Senate Meetings

The Senate shall hold at least one regular meeting each month during the academic year (September through May). The Senate may by the vote of two-thirds of its membership increase the schedule of regular meetings. It shall hold special meetings (1) at the call of the President of the University, (2) at the call of the President of the Senate, (3) by majority vote of the senators present at any regular or special meetings, (4) by petition of twenty (20) percent of the voting membership of the University Faculty to the President of the Senate, ~~or~~ (5) by petition to the President of the Senate of at least twenty (20) percent of the senators, (6) when requested by a majority of the voting members of the Executive Committee, or (7) when required to hold a meeting because it is stipulated as a condition in any section of the Faculty Handbook. The President of the Senate (or in his or her absence the Vice President of the Senate) in the last ~~three~~ five cases shall issue the call of the special meeting within a week of receipt of the request. The meeting shall be held within one week of the call. The call of a special meeting shall state the purpose or purposes of the special meeting and no business shall be transacted other than that specified in the notice of the meeting.