

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO**  
**Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting of August 18, 2020**  
**FACULTY SENATE**

<http://www.utoledo.edu/facsenate>

Approved @ FS on 09/29/2020

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**Summary of Discussion**

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**Note:** The taped recording of this meeting is available in the Faculty Senate office or in the University Archives.

**President Brakel:** Welcome to our first Faculty Senate meeting in the fall semester. At this time I will ask President Elect Terry Bigioni to call the roll.

**Present:** Ali, Anderson, Bailey, Barnes, Bigioni, Brakel, Case, Chaffee, Chaudhuri, Chou, Coulter-Harris, Day, de le Serna, Duggan, Duhon, Elgafy, El-Zawahry, Garcia-Mata, Gibbs, Giovannucci, Gregory, Guardiola, Heberle, Insch, Jayatissa, Kistner, Koch, Krantz, Kujawa, Lawrence, Lecka-Czernik, Lee, Lipscomb, Longsdorf, Lundquist (substitute for A. Edgington), Metz, Milz, Modyanov, Molitor, J. Murphy, Niamat, Nigem, Oberlander, Pakulski, Pattin, Perry, Ratnam, Reeves, Smith, Stepkowski, Steven, Taylor, Teclehaimanot, Thompson-Casado, Tiwari, Topp, Van Hoy, Wedding, Welsch, Zietlow

**Excused Absence:** Templin

**Unexcused Absence:** Gray (extended FSEC rep), Hall, Longsdorf, L. Murphy, Rouillard (extended FSEC rep)

**President Brakel:** Do we have a quorum?

**Senator Bigioni:** Yes.

**President Brakel:** Thank you. The agenda was sent out this morning. May I have a motion to adopt the agenda?

**Senator Molitor:** So moved.

**Senator Kistner:** Second.

**President Brakel:** So the agenda is adopted. Next, we have a series of Minutes to actually approve. We will start with April 14, 2020. Are there any corrections to those Minutes? Hearing none. I'll entertain a motion to approve the Minutes of April 14, 2020.

**Senator Molitor:** So move.

**Senator Kistner:** Second.

**President Brakel:** Put 'y' in the chat if you approve. So that has passed. *Motion Passed.*

We also have the Minutes from the April 28, 2020 Senate meeting. Are there any corrections? Hearing none. I'll entertain a motion to approve these Minutes.

**Senator Niamat:** So moved.

**Senator Molitor:** Second.

**President Brakel:** Again, put 'y' in the chat if you approve.

**President Brakel:** The April 28<sup>th</sup> Minutes are approved. *Motion Passed.* Next are the May 12, 2020 Senate Minutes. Are there any corrections. Hearing none.

**Senator:** I move to approve.

**Senator Chou:** Second.

**President Brakel:** Please put ‘y’ in the chat. So the May 12<sup>th</sup> Faculty Senate Minutes has passed. *Motion Passed.*

Then finally, the July 07, 2020 Minutes. Are there any corrections to those set of Minutes? Hearing none. I’ll entertain a motion to approve.

**Senator Molitor:** So moved.

**Senator Kistner:** Second.

**President Brakel:** Again, the same way of voting. So that appears to have passed. *Motion Passed.* Thank you.

That brings us to our **Executive Committee report:** Welcome to the Fall Semester of the 2020-21 Academic Year. I hope your summer was a relaxing, productive and most important a healthy one.

A significant portion of the summer focused on the university’s budget situation and the reopening plans. As you are no doubt aware, there were budget cuts that greatly impacted support staff across the institution especially in the form of layoffs and furloughs. There were cuts in part time and Visiting positions, hiring freezes and other budget saving measures. As you are also aware, the Board of Trustees approved a temporary three-month budget with the plan to approve a permanent budget in September. One of the concerns at that time was how far down the fall enrollment would be. In early summer, enrollment was down around 17%. As of Monday, the fall enrollment headcount and FTE was down 7.3%. This 7.3% is slightly better than the projected 7.5% enrollment decline that the fiscal year 21 budget is built on. It should be noted that the Finance and Strategy Committee did not meet over the summer after the temporary budget was approved. The Finance and Strategy Committee will resume meetings on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. While there was a significant improvement at the end of the last budget year regarding cash on hand compared to what had been presented to Faculty Senate at the end of the Spring Semester by Vice President of Finance Matt Schroeder, other concerns remain. We will invite Vice President Schroeder to do another budget presentation to Senate in the near future.

I have attended Rocket Restart meetings twice a week for the past couple of months. While there are faculty who believe that we should be 100% on-line, it was clear early on that that was not going to happen. Our push has been to get as much flexibility for faculty as possible so that whatever accommodations that a faculty member would need, that those needs were granted. We understand that many more classes were moved on-line than originally planned and that other accommodations were made to address individual faculty concerns.

Senator Molitor emailed me a concern earlier in the summer regarding a super scoring procedure for admitting students into programs. This issue is related to the test-optional admissions process. The administration position under President Gaber was that they are admitting students into the university and

that programs retain the right concerning qualifications for admission into their program. We will need to continue to address this issue difference this academic year.

The Executive Committee also met with Provost Bjorkman regarding the Pass/Fail Policy. The proposal from the Provost's Office was to allow students to elect to take fall classes as Pass Fail similar to what was done when we moved to virtual learning in the spring. This was initially proposed as a pilot study for both the 2020-21 fall and spring semesters and would not have the special grade designation that was used last spring. Students would have to declare the Pass/Fail by around the midterm as opposed to the end of the semester. Students would still need to contact their advisors regarding if a Pass Fail was possible so that issues such as courses that had a required minimum grade were addressed. Given that there were still classes being moved to on-line or hybrid at the time of the meeting, and the potential that we may have to move to 100% on-line at some point in the semester, the Executive committee was ok with permitting an increased pass fail option for the fall semester only so that the full Senate would have the opportunity to weigh in on a pilot study.

I also received the proposed Attendance Policy that is on today's agenda from the Provost's Office. This Policy came about based on an audit done by the state on Title IV Requirements. They noted we needed a policy on attendance – hence this new policy. This policy was reviewed by the Executive Committee and placed on today's agenda so that we can comply with Title IV requirements.

As we will elect the remaining members of the Executive Committee for 2020-21 at today's meeting, I want to thank the members of the Executive Committee – Secretary Mark Templin, Katie Thompson-Casado, David Giovannucci, Temeaka Gray, Ainsworth Bailey, and, last fall and spring Past President Linda Rouillard for their service to Faculty Senate. You represented your constituents well and I valued your input into the various matters that came before us.

This concludes the Faculty Senate Executive Committee Report. Does any Executive Committee member have anything to add to the report? Hearing none. Are there questions or comments from senators?

**Senator Heberle:** President Brakel, will you elaborate more on the issue area? I didn't even understand it.

**President Brakel:** Sure.

**Senator Heberle:** I'm sorry, can you hear me?

**President Brakel:** Yes, I can hear you now.

**Senator Heberle:** Okay. I was wondering if you could elaborate more on that first issue area, the difference between administration and the Executive Committee. I just didn't quite get it enough to repeat what you said.

**President Brakel:** I believe you are referring to the super scoring for admission.

**Senator Heberle:** Yes.

**President Brakel:** Okay. As you may recall, last spring the University had decided to use SAT test optional and was looking at a number of different factors as to whether to admit students or not. That would be such things as class range, high school GPA, extra curriculum activities, whatever that might be pertinent. Based on that scoring process, and they were making a decision whether to admit a student into

the University, what we believe is being communicated to some of these students is that they are not just being admitted into the University, but they think they might be admitted into programs. So that is where the discrepancy lies.

**Senator Heberle:** So it is a matter of---

**President Brakel:** Does that answer your question Senator Heberle?

**Senator Heberle:** Just to clarify, so it is a matter of messaging and not so much a matter of policy because they are not actually admitting students into their colleges and programs. Right?

**President Brakel:** We want to make that messaging more clearly and also to make sure what the actual policy really is.

**Senator Heberle:** Right. Thank you.

**Senator Molitor:** President Brakel, can I interject here?

**President Brakel:** Yes.

**Senator Molitor:** I raised this concern and have a couple of issues with this. Number one, it seems like there is pressure from Enrollment Management on individual colleges to go ahead and change their admission standards. I wanted to remind everybody that admission standards are part of the academic program and need to be approved by the program modification process that goes through the Faculty Senate. Also, I understand that this is supposed to be a pilot, but the media and the publicity around this made it sound like this was a permanent change, and I have concerns about that as well.

**Provost Bjorkman:** President Brakel, can I just say a quick word about that?

**President Brakel:** Yes.

**Provost Bjorkman:** I just wanted to clarify that one of the problems that we have, especially as we are admitting students for this fall and onward, was that the testing centers were all closed down because of COVID. So, students were having a severely difficult time even accessing the ability to take the exams and that was the reason for putting the pilot in place.

**President Brakel:** Right. And that testing problem is continuing this fall. I know some high school seniors right now that have tried to schedule a test and the testing center have been closed. Any other questions or comments? Hearing none.

We are pleased once again to have President Postel with us. He would like to make a few comments to address us today.

**UT Interim President Postel:** Well, good afternoon. President Brakel, thank you so much for the kind invitation and the opportunity to join you this afternoon and begin a relationship with the Faculty Senate. In my previous role as Interim President at the University of Louisville, I had a very active relationship with the Faculty Senate. It was always a valuable way for me to receive input that was different and complimentary to other input that I received, and also for me to have a chance to share with you some of the thinking and some of the decisions that are being considered so that you could help take those back to the individuals in your various schools and departments you represent. So I am very happy to be here. I

saw your agenda. You have a two-hour agenda on a beautiful summer afternoon so I promise to be brief, but I did want to make sure that I did have an opportunity to make a few comments.

So I will be talking to Dr. Brakel about the best way for me to interface with the Senate. I imagine it will be a combination of meetings directly with him, with the Executive Committee, and then at various intervals with the entire group as we are doing today. So whatever case of communication works best for you, our office will work to facilitate that type of program. A similar situation, I am developing a case of meetings with all the deans. I know that this is a new venue, but I've been meeting one-on-one with each of the deans and I am cycling through. At some of those meetings the deans are choosing to bring some department chairs with them, which is another nice opportunity for me to meet more members of the University of Toledo leadership. When we get through the list, we will go back to the top of the batting order and work our way through again. I think this is my way of saying that with so many different initiatives underway and with so many [really] disruptive changes in our environment right now, the communication is probably more important than it's ever been. There are endless opportunities for miscommunication. I am going to do my very best to be a consistent and clear communicator and try to be available when questions arise.

So yesterday with an interesting mixture of excitement and anticipation, we welcome students back to campus for the fall semester. It had been a long time. It became clear throughout the process that this is a topic on which there will never be consensus, should a university be open or closed. If you look at the mail in my inbox and hear the comments from faculty, and staff and students, [there are] lots of people at the opposite ends of the spectrum on this issue. There are people absolutely convinced we should not have opened the doors, other people are furious that everything isn't face-to-face. So both ends of the spectrum and everything in between. And so, when you have a situation like that where you are not going to achieve consensus, there are only a couple of options. One is to, first of all, pay attention to what the experts are saying. We follow closely the advice of the CDC, the State Health Department, and the Lucas County Health Department. We follow every piece of advice that those individuals provide. Second, to try to stay in step with as many of your peers as you can. So there are regular meetings, as you know, between the presidents of the state universities in Ohio and then we've kept one other... The group is fairly consistent about many of the things we are doing. There are individual variations in policy and protocol from place to place, but the plan for the vast majority of the state universities in Ohio has been to go in and open in a hybrid fashion such as we have done. Then the other tactic when there is this widespread difference in opinion is to create the greatest degree of flexibility possible for all involved. So students do not have to live on campus. Students who have asked for exceptions to our normal requirement - for first and second year students to live on campus - those exceptions have been granted. We have other students who are thrilled to be here and they want to be here. Those are the ones living in the resident housing. We have students want to take face-to-face classes. We have students who don't want to step foot into the building. So for those individuals, they are welcome to study online with remote learning, or online learning, or some combination thereof. Similarly, there is a process for faculty and staff who have concerns about their health and feel that it is not in their best interest to be here, there is an exception process, and there is a way of reviewing those. I know the teams involved are trying to be as liberal as they can granting those exceptions while understanding that if we have students here then we are going to need to be able to operate the University, at least in a hybrid fashion for their benefit. So I guess it is this type of flexibility that we've attempted to introduce, and as a result we have a de-densified campus. We don't have our usual thirty-one hundred students living in the dorms. We have twenty-three

or twenty-four hundred. That is because there are no triples or quads anymore. Those were eliminated. If you walk around campus or if you walk in the Student Union, there are students, but no way near as many as usual. Everything is a hybrid or a de-densified version of what one would typically see at the offset of the fall semester. And then of course, there has been tireless activity by Amy Thompson and her large team of individuals who have done everything humanly possible to try to make the campus safe. What I will tell you is, every day they are finding more things they need to do. We've expected that. This is the case at all universities. No one has lived through a Coronavirus before. Unfortunately, there is no playbook for this problem. So there has been a lot of flexibility and modification every day. We are open to good ideas. We are learning from experience. We are learning from others and we are closely following the world around us. This week, thank Goodness, at least so far the numbers are a little better; the Ohio data is slightly trending down and Lucas County data is trending quite-a-bit down. The numbers here locally, the last few days, have been quite a bit better than they were, let's say, a month ago. So experience is a haphazard teacher. We are going to have to watch [this] every single day and understand what type of trend it represents. But nevertheless, it is some good news this week to usher in at the beginning of a new semester.

Now, I know that you all are aware of the testing that is being done. So this will be the last thing I will say about the Coronavirus. We have taken the extra step of offering testing to asymptomatic members of the Rocket family. Of course, symptomatic patients are tested at UTMC. We have taken the voluntarily step of also randomly testing students, staff, and family, starting with 500-600 per week, starting tomorrow, as a way of understanding how our baseline looks compared to the world around us. There is a school of thinking that if universities can show that their... *[Indecipherable]*... the community of which the university is located, then it makes good sense to carry on and obviously continue the social distancing, the wearing of masks, and the hygiene, and, all the things we are doing. On the other hand, if we see data that is starting to trend unacceptably upward then we are doing something wrong, and you can bet the Covid task force is going to be on top of that and deciding what types of adjustments needs to be made depending on the source of the problem and the severity of it. This asymptomatic testing, in addition to helping us bring individuals to medical attention who might not otherwise been on the radar, is also a way of understanding our campus baseline and how our campus baseline compare over time to the community around us. That begins tomorrow. You'll see email invitations. If you are randomly selected to come over to the Glass Bowl and have a test, it is a saliva based test. We will be able to track that data. We intend to be transparent about it. We are not going to hide it from anybody because we want people to understand the truth of the matter, how is our experience here as time goes by? For those who aren't randomly selected there will be a limited opportunity for staff and faculty who wish to be tested and are asymptomatic to obtain tests as well. We will be happy to work with you through that process if you have a particular interest. You will not be charged for this. We are going to bill the insurance and if they pay, that is great and if they don't, the University will pay the bill.

So I want to say a few words about the budget situation and then I will pause and take a few questions so that Provost Bjorkman can have plenty of time for her comments. So, the budget that was created in the spring or early summer of this year was obviously at a time of tremendous uncertainty and a time of unprecedented events. The campus had closed entirely [to] face-to-face instruction. The residential facilities had been emptied out. There were no dining services and no parking on campus. The state was predicting there could have been as much as a 20% cut in SSI. It wasn't clear how much federal stimulus money was going to be made available to either hospitals or to campuses. The University of Toledo

Medical Center was losing a lot of money. Some of it was baseline loss and some of it accelerated by the effects of the Coronavirus and the delay of elective cases. So, you couldn't pick a worst time to plan a budget. It is important, I think, also to note that this terribly difficult period that you all have been living through here was simply imposed on a situation that was not great to begin with. As I've learned more and more about the University of Toledo in my short time here, I've learned that people have learned to expect budget crises year over year. It is like 'groundhog day.' There are some structural problems and some stability issues financially that simply must be addressed in order for this not to be a recurrent problem. Every business has an occasional good year and an occasional bad year, but if you have a bad year financially every year, then there is a problem and something has to be done. There has to be, of course, correction. So there was sort of this baseline financial difficulty and then on top of it, the 'sky falls' and the campus clears out and the state threatens to take 1/5<sup>th</sup> of your money -- and in that context, a budget is created. So, it is no surprise that, that budget was quite draconian and had cuts in all areas that really are unacceptable if our plan is to continue to provide high quality education and research and more importantly be scalable for future growth. So that was sort of the starting point if you look at where things were in June and July. So there's been an awful lot of work done in the last couple of months and then there's also been some more clarity around some things that weren't so clear back in the spring. So for starters, I am happy to say that the finances at UTMC are quickly stabilizing. Thanks to some support money from the federal government, our ability to lesson some of the expense lines there, and really strong efforts by the team to really find ways to get more reimbursement for the care that is provided at UTMC. Why I mention this first is [because] I don't think the Main Campus should ever have to worry about the hospital losing vulnerability to the overall academic enterprise. And quite honestly, it had gotten to the point where that was the case. So, one of the things that I am happy to represent to you today is that we gave quick attention to this matter and have stabilized the finances at the hospital. We are under the belief at this point that the hospital may actually show a slight profit for the year, if you could imagine. So whether you work on the Health Science Campus or not, you should view this as very good news because it is either strengthening the campus on which you work or it is lessening the threat to your campus from that operation. Now, on the other side of the equation, here on the Main Campus, quick work has been done also to develop a variety of scenarios by which we will understand sort of the bookends of what is going to happen financially. So the nice side of the equation, the positive bookend is that if we are able to remain open for business, all be it, in a de-densified hybrid sort of way here throughout this semester and through next spring semester, we will have a budget that is substantially better than the one that had been predicted when the Board passed the temporary three-month budget back in June. This is due to a combination of the state feeling comfortable at this point with a lessor cut in SSI that had been feared. It is due to the presence of some federal stimulus money that has come our way and the hope of even more to come if an agreement is reached in our nation's capital. There's a whole host of other activities that... *[Recording Change]*... you all been forced to try to navigate over the last few months, so we will be able to restore some of the funding that has been removed. We will do this in a strategic way. We will try to understand, again through Dr. Bjorkman and her team, some of the most impactful ways that we can reinvest and lesson the blow that you all suffered. This is exciting, although keep in mind that a lot of the money that would be used to do that is one-time money that is coming from the federal government. So, it does not lesson, in any way, our need to immediately roll up our sleeves and work to achieve stability. There is a lot work that needs to be done at the University of Toledo around enrollment, around development, around how we support program, what kind of data driven decisions, and around supporting things that are most impactful to the University. There is a lot of work that simply must be done if we

don't want to find ourselves in a situation very similar to this again a year from now. Now, I mentioned the bookend so you might ask, what is the bookend that is not so 'happy?' That is the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill scenario where things spiral out of control and the university is forced to pivot back to an all online scenario – nobody in the dorms, nobody in the dining facilities, and no one parking on campus. So in that scenario, obviously, we will be needing to use support dollars that are coming from the federal government to retain the operations of the university and pay salaries and keep the doors open. We have this scenario work out in such a way that I don't believe any further cuts will be necessary, that is the good news. But the bad news though, in that scenario there will be far less opportunity to reinvest and try to correct some of the things that have happened in the current year's budget. So you will learn, as you get to know me better, I am real blunt and I might not communicate as well as I am hoping to, but I am certainly trying and I will be glad to answer questions. But the fact of the matter is, in order for us to have our best chance of replenishing some of the losses that have been created in some of the current year budget, we need to stay open. Obviously, we are not going to do that if it is unsafe. Trust me, the safety of our students is a lot more important than money. I do not want anyone to misunderstand my comments. Okay, but with that caveat, I understand how important investment in academic programs is. I don't like having people furloughed, people who have been drift in other situations -- I want to fix that. But to fix that we need a resource to do it, and it is just as simple as that. I think that they will be available as long as we are able to stay open. So we have been real conservative. I think you probably heard from Vice President Schroeder very conservative comments -- CFOs tend to be conservative by nature. With the concern and things that happened yesterday at UNC Chapel Hill, it is scary to make predictions until we have a little better feel on how things are going to go. It is day two -- we've had some problems, but none of them are terrible. We got 'kinks' to work out. There are a small handful of people that have tested positive. It is not because we opened, but because they were positive as we opened and they were discovered, but not numbers like Chapel Hill - small numbers. But we have to keep a very, very close eye on it. This is the second day and it is way too soon to declare a victory.

So with that, again, I will offer you that I am excited to be here. I really like the University of Toledo. I've been here less than two months. I have been extremely well treated by everyone. I've been welcomed. People have tried to help get me up to speed. We've got an awful lot of work to do, but we got our sleeves rolled up and we are going to do it. I already have Rocket cufflinks. If anyone would like to see them, stop by the office and it will give me a chance to say hello to you. We are going to work hard to make this year the best we can under extraordinary circumstances. I'm very anxious to learn ways to best interface with your Senate. Dr. Brakel, thank you for the time.

**President Brakel:** Thank you. I noticed there were two questions in the chat, but those were answered. One was about screening students on campus for COVID. You answered that. We will start random screening tomorrow. And then the other question was, is asymptomatic testing available upon request? That is also available, limited numbers. So are there any other questions for President Postel?

**Senator Stepkowski:** Thank you very much. My name is Stan Stepkowski. I work at the Medical School. We really welcome you and we really enjoy hearing you at the Senate. My question is, would this testing also be available at the Medical Center or only at the Main Campus?

**UT Interim President Postel:** Amy Thompson is on the phone. I think there is more than one location for asymptomatic testing, but I am going to let her answer that question.



**Vice Provost Thompson:** Sure. So we actually are taking a three-prong approach to our testing. The random asymptomatic testing will be happening at least for the first four weeks on Main Campus. It is alternating between the Glass Bowl and we will have a drive up placement site as well, and then for faculty and staff specifically, we will have a number of asymptomatic tests that will be available to them as desired. And then thirdly, we have symptomatic testing, both Main Campus and at UTMC. We are using one common number to make those appointments for symptomatic testing, and that is our (419) 383-4545 number. Usually you call and leave your name and number and they will call right back and get you scheduled. One point I do want to make. We really have the quickest turnaround time in the area. So it is really important that, especially if you are symptomatic, you use our testing if possible because some of the pop-up testing sites in the community you may be waiting four, five, or six days to get in, and then just as long to get your result. So I just want to make sure that you knew we have shorter waiting times with our testing.

**President Brakel:** Any other questions? Dr. Thompson, could you put that number in the chat for everybody, please? Thank you.

All right, since I am not hearing further questions, thank you President Postel. I appreciate everything that you've done. So Provost Bjorkman, your report is next.

**Provost Bjorkman:** Thank you, President Brakel. It is a hard act to follow, but I will do my best. Good afternoon everyone. Welcome to the 2020-2021 academic year. It is a really interesting start to things as you all know. We are beginning the fall semester with a lot of changes. But the one thing that hasn't changed is the strength of our university community, and I just want to emphasize that.

Over the last five months, I have witnessed an incredible dedication and hard work of our faculty and staff, working together trying to achieve our mission of providing the highest quality academic experience for our students. This University is an exceptional place – and I continue to be proud - and humbled - to serve as your Provost.

Last Friday, we held our New Student Convocation virtually and we welcomed our newest 'Rockets' to the University, and that is the class of 2024. We also held a virtual New Faculty Orientation and welcomed 20 new faculty from seven colleges, including tenure track faculty, visiting faculty, and lecturers. So I ask you to please reach out to our new faculty and welcome them as they make the transition to their new appointments here at the University of Toledo. This fall we also welcome Dr. Mark Merrick, our new dean of the College of Health and Human Services, who joined us on July 1<sup>st</sup>. He joins us from the Ohio State University, where he served as director of the Athletic Training Division within Ohio State's College of Medicine. Dr. Merrick is a proud 'Rocket,' a two-time graduate of UToledo, having earned a baccalaureate and doctoral degrees here. We look forward to his leadership.

I want to express my appreciation to Dr. Berry Scheuermann for his service as interim dean of the College of Health and Human Services during the last academic year. This year, he didn't get enough as being interim, so he has agreed to serve as interim dean of the College of Graduate Studies, given the departure of Dr. Amanda Bryant-Friedrich this summer for her new position as Dean of the Graduate School at Wayne State University. So a few changes around. We are fortunate that Dr. Scheuermann has agreed to serve in this interim position, while we conduct a national search for a permanent dean of COGS during the current academic year.

I want to keep my remarks relatively brief this afternoon. First of all, because it is a beautiful day outside and secondly, to allow a little time for questions and to get you on to the rest of your agenda. Let me just make a few administrative announcements before I conclude. I want to let everybody know that we have a new university-wide contract with Qualtrics Survey Tool. I want you to know about it because it now has an open license for the entire campus. Faculty, staff, students, all will be able to use Qualtrics and it is all included in our contract. There will be training sessions provided by IT later this semester and [we] will provide additional information as soon as the times and places are available. They will be done virtually.

All faculty and staff have been asked to complete a Covid-19 safety training module online by August 31<sup>st</sup>. You should have received an email with a link to the online training. This is similar to the FERPA training that you do from time to time and the Title IX training. I just did mine the other day and it is not bad at all. It is actually pretty good for reminding [you] of a number of things around Covid-19 and precautions to take. Please take the time to complete the training module. It is a good overview and we all need to follow them as we re-open the campus.

Regarding Scantron Tests - for those of you who are still using Scantrons - Scantron has been moved into the basement of the Carlson Library. Operations are now re-opened. If you want to take Scantron tests over there, you should drop them off at the first floor IT Help Desk in the Carlson Library. I am told that the Scantron test results will be then emailed to faculty within one business day. We are working on an alternative to Scantron. We will be phasing it out after the end of fall semester and so we will keep you posted on that.

The Pass/ No Credit Option that Tim mentioned earlier, I just want to provide you with an update on how we are going to handle that this fall. So if you recall, during the spring semester, because everything was just sudden and abrupt and completely crazy, we adopted a one-time policy with special grading of PENE etc. Students were able to choose that option all the way at the end of the spring semester, even after they received their final grades. We did that to try to provide the maximum flexibility and support for our students. Now this semester, for fall 2020, since we are returning to our hopefully 'normal enrollment' and 'normal teaching' etc. - albeit, sometimes remote or online - we are using our normal pass/ no credit policy, which normally requires students to select that option during the drop/add period. So all we are doing for the fall is we are going to extend the deadline for students to choose that option until after they receive their mid-term grades. That gives them a chance to get a good sense of how their classes are going for them, how they are feeling about it, or if it is in a mode they weren't too sure about. So the deadline for students to elect the pass/no credit option for this fall will be October 16<sup>th</sup>. I appreciate the Faculty Senate Executive Committee willingness to work with us over the summer so we could get that put into place. I do understand if you would like to have more discussion about it before continuing that into spring. Obviously, we will see a lot more as we get through this semester how spring is going to look. I just want to let everyone know about that. That is going to be available for our students. We will be getting some messaging out on that.

In terms of UToledo Online resources for the faculty, I want to note that the UToledo Online Help Desk and Instructional Design staff are available to provide faculty with any assistance and training you need – I know you are all pros at that by now – including how best to engage students in a remote learning environment. Dean Barbara Kopp-Miller and her instructional design team have really added a lot of additional hours to help assist faculty as we move forward with many hybrid and online courses this semester.

I also wanted to call your attention to the fact that we have designated a person in each college to serve as a college resource person for faculty and student issues related to Covid-19. These are called COVID Advocates. A list of those college-based COVID Advocates is available on the Office of the Provost website. The Provost's Office website also has links to a number of documents and resources – including the Rocket Restart Covid-19 Manual – that includes some “Frequently Asked Questions” – if there are more, please let us know and we will be happy to add them – as well as links to many of the University's resources for faculty, staff, and students. There is also a link to the document we sent by email to all faculty on “Faculty Guidance and Protocols on In-Class Covid-19 related Behavior” – and there is also a link to posters and signage that may be downloaded related to social distancing, wearing face coverings, hand-washing, and other safety and wellness messaging. The University has the Rocket Restart – University website. I encourage you to visit the University's “Rocket Restart” website, which is updated regularly as circumstances change and evolve.

Finally, do not hesitate to contact me directly at [provost@utoledo.edu](mailto:provost@utoledo.edu) - if you have any concerns or need any additional information – at any time during the days and weeks ahead. These are challenging times, and I want you to know that the Office of the Provost is available to assist you and to respond to your concerns in any way that we can.

And finally, I just want to remind everyone that we all need to be as flexible as possible with our students, as we make every effort to keep them actively engaged in our classes. Just a reminder: the student absences related to Covid-19, quarantine or self-isolation due to exposure, are considered to be approved absences and should be treated as such. We have to continue to be flexible, accommodating and act with grace toward one another all the time. We are Rockets – we are a community – and we will get through this together. Thank you, I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

**Senator Thompson-Casado:** Provost Bjorkman, this is Kati Thompson-Casado.

**Provost Bjorkman:** Yes, go ahead.

**Senator Thompson-Casado:** I had a question about the Testing Center. Could you give us an update on the Testing Center and when it will be available for placement testing for students? This has caused an issue for us in Foreign Languages.

**Provost Bjorkman:** Yes. Thanks for that question. At the moment the Testing Center has been closed, and the reason for that is we simply don't have enough space in there for social distancing. So literally, we can only accommodate one or two students in that space. So we couldn't keep it staffed with that level of ability for students. It sounds like though that we need to try and find an alternate possibility for your placement testing. So, I will make a note of that and we will see what we can do for that. Thank you for letting me know about that.

**Vice Provost Thompson:** Provost Bjorkman, can I just add one other item?

**Provost Bjorkman:** Please, Dr. Thompson.

**Vice Provost Thompson:** As part of our Rocket prevention principals, we are asking everybody to monitor their symptoms on a daily basis. So checking their temperature, looking for cough etc. So we are using Campus Clear as an app to help monitor. So if you have not done so, please consider downloading Campus Clear. It is a free app from any app store. You can also access it through a desktop. It is very

handy as a reminder because every day it will pop-up once you've created an account and ask you questions and reminds you to fill it out. What it does is it also anonymously allows us to kind of monitor numbers of people across campus reporting symptoms. So that is very, very helpful. Please help us pass the word across campus and to your students and ask them to utilize this app on a daily basis. Thank you.

**Provost Bjorkman:** Just as Dr. Thompson was speaking here, can I just take one more second to say we all owe great thanks to Amy Thompson because she has been tireless in sort of leading this effort? There have been tons of people involved and it will take me a half-an-hour to go through the list of people that has been involved at minimum. But Amy has really been leading this charge and I couldn't be more grateful, as I've said before, to have a vice provost with a background in public health. Thank you, Amy.

**President Brakel:** Provost Bjorkman, I have a question here that came from a faculty member in regards to the recording of classes. Specifically, they had an email from the ADA Office and it talked about should it be ineligible for closed captioning of the recording class and when is it going to be available for upload in terms of video and what platform. Then it goes on and says, there is no need for the instructor to record the class, for which they are doing either with Blackboard Collaborate or Zoom. I guess the dean of that college said that since the courses are not typically lectured based, but rather discussion activity based, there is no need to record. So, would you address the need to record classes, please?

**Provost Bjorkman:** Sure. I know part of it, both Blackboard Collaborate, Zoom, WebEx and other platforms like that do have the ability to record a session. You just turn it on at the start of the session. We've been doing that actually for some of the dialogues in diversity, things that's been held. We would encourage people to do that. If a student is unable to come to class because they are in quarantine or they are sick, how do they keep up with that work? That is the intent, really is to make sure the students still have access to the material and the content in the class. I do know for accommodations that the Student Disability Office does have access to a service that does the video captioning. I apologize, I am not familiar with the details of how that works and so we will have to find that out for you. If it is a case where it is not typically a lecture and it is done through discussion and interaction, that becomes a little bit more problematic in terms of trying to make sure a student is still engaged in a class. I know that people can use their best judgement. As long as you are making good faith effort to make sure that students are able to continue with the class even if they are in quarantine, that is really the primary goal; that is the bottom line. I will say, by the way, that Echo360 we used to have a problem that the more we watched, the more it cost us. We have since changed that contract with Echo360, so you can anything you want and it doesn't matter how many students login and how many times they watch it, they can watch it again and again if they miss something and want to go back and pick it up. It is not an impact on our budget anymore.

**President Brakel:** I guess part of that, the concern was also a student can just get up that morning and say I don't feel like going to class and I will just watch the video later.

**Provost Bjorkman:** Well, that is kind of like students are students and they are grown-ups and they should be taking responsibility for their own education. Right?

**President Brakel:** Right. Any other questions or comments for the Provost? I don't think I hear any, but I am having some buffering problems on my end.

**Senator Ali:** I actually have a question. This is Imran Ali from Neurology. One of the things that is a bit challenging for us on the Health Science Campus is some requirements for things like HIPPA that comes from the University. For all of us in Medicine we actually have requirements from..., so having additional requirements from the University are a bit cumbersome and unnecessary. So I heard about this COVID training, and hopefully people on the Health Science Campus who are medical physicians should be exempt from those type of training because we are already sick and taking care of those patients.

**Provost Bjorkman:** Well, the problem comes in identifying who those people would be and so the easiest way to do it is just to assign it across the board because really we think everybody needs to know it. But I do hear what you are saying though, and I understand that. I'm sure if you could provide us with a list of the people who should be exempt from that, we can certainly get that changed; but I don't want to do too much of that because we do feel like it is important just to remind people of all the safety precautions. I appreciate your point – thank you.

**Senator Ali:** Thanks. We can send you the College of Medicine clinical faculty list. Thank you.

**Provost Bjorkman:** Thank you. Okay, well, if nothing else, thank you'll very much.

**President Brakel:** So hopefully everybody can hear me right now. We are going to move toward the elections and before we begin the process, you've received an email earlier today with regard to how this process will be running. I will re-read that for you in case you have not seen that: "During today's meeting you will receive links to a number of Qualtrics studies to cast your ballot for the Faculty Senate Executive Committee members. These links will come from Senator Molitor and will be sent to your University of Toledo email address. To prevent senators from casting multiple ballots, you will only be able to submit one response. Please do not complete the survey until you are instructed to do so if you are in the meeting. Senator Molitor, would you like to add anything before we begin this election process?"

**Senator Molitor:** No, that captures it. We are going to be trying out our new Qualtrics License today.

**Senator Giovannucci:** President Brakel, I do have a question. What about faculty that may be joining by a cell phone, call-in faculty, who would need to vote? Would this impact their ability to vote?

**President Brakel:** They should be able to log into their email and they should be able to vote via their email account. So they may have to toggle over to their email. Any other questions? I don't think there are.

All right. So the first office that we are to elect is the Executive Secretary for the Senate. Per the Constitution and its Appendix regarding elections, the first nomination for secretary comes from the Executive Committee and so the name that is being placed as a nomination right now is Kim Nigem. Are there additional nominations for the position of secretary? Senator Molitor, did you note that Sara Lundquist is the substitute?

**Senator Molitor:** I did. I will try to modify that now. It may take me a few minutes to get these ballots out, but I will do my best to get that taken care of. Thank you, Sara for mentioning that.

**President Brakel:** Are there additional nominations again for secretary? Senator Nigem, do you accept this nomination?

**Senator Nigem:** Yes.

**President Brakel:** Thank you.

**Senator Kistner:** I move to close the nominations.

**Senator Molitor:** I second.

**President Brakel:** So since there is only one nomination in this process, Senator Molitor, if you don't mind doing the chat there to make it easier for us. If you would vote 'yes' in the chat, please. It looks like we've got the votes and Dr. Nigem has been elected to the position of secretary.

Next up is we need two representatives from the Main Campus. In order to place these names in the nomination, you must be a representative from the Main Campus. But, everybody can vote on the individuals. Do I have any nominations?

**Senator Bigioni:** I would like to nominate Senator Suzanne Smith.

**President Brakel:** Thank you. I see in the chat there is a nomination for Renee Heberle. Renee, do you accept the nomination?

**Senator Heberle:** Yes, I accept. Thank you. Okay. Are there additional nominations?

**Senator Bigioni:** President Brakel, did you hear my nomination?

**President Brakel:** I did not.

**Senator Bigioni:** Okay. I would like to nominate Senator Suzanne Smith.

**President Brakel:** Okay. Senator Smith, do you accept the nomination?

**Senator Smith:** I do.

**President Brakel:** Are there additional nominations?

**Senator Bigioni:** There is an additional nomination in the chat box.

**President Brakel:** Okay, I see Senator Garcia-Mata. Is that the one that you are seeing, Senator Bigioni?

**Senator Bigioni:** Correct.

**President Brakel:** Okay. Senator Garcia-Mata, are you accepting this nomination?

**Senator Garcia-Mata:** Yes, I accept the nomination.

**President Brakel:** Are there additional nominations? Okay, I didn't hear anybody. Senator Bigioni, did I get everybody?

**Senator Bigioni:** As far as I see, yes.

**Senator Wedding:** Point of Order, President Brakel.

**President Brakel:** Yes, Senator Wedding.

**Senator Wedding:** I believe that our campus, the Main Campus votes for these candidates; I don't think we all vote for the same and I believe that is the way we've done it.

**President Brakel:** Senator Molitor.

**Senator Molitor:** Senator Wedding, you are correct. I have an email distribution list so any links for the Main Campus representatives will go to the Main Campus senators.

**Senator Wedding:** Thank you very much.

**President Brakel:** Once again, are there any other nominations? Hearing none. For the Main Campus At-Large-Representatives, I will entertain a motion to close the nomination process.

**Senator Niamat:** So moved.

**Senator Barnes:** Second.

**President Brakel:** Any discussion? Hearing none. Please vote 'yes' in the chat. Okay, I think we've got that there. You want to give some instructions?

**Senator Molitor:** Yes, if you give me a moment, you can start checking your emails. This is the Main Campus faculty only. You should be receiving the link; just give me about 30 seconds here and I will tell you when to check. Forty-four members of the Main Campus faculty should receive an email to their University of Toledo email accounts. I just received mine. Qualtrics says it sent 25 emails so far.

**President Brakel:** You got them voting for one candidate, but they can vote for two.

**Senator Molitor:** No, we do each election separately. We will do the first representative now and then there will be a second ballot for the second representative.

**President Brakel:** Thank you.

**Senator Molitor:** Are there any Main Campus faculty members who have not received the ballot?

**Senator Wedding:** Yes, I have not received my ballot.

**Senator Molitor:** Senator Wedding, I sent it to your University of Toledo address. I apologize.

**Senator Wedding:** It supposed to be forwarded.

**Senator Molitor:** Oh. It may take a moment or two to forward it. I see that 21 ballots have been cast.

**President Brakel:** Please cast your vote.

**Professor Ou:** Hello. This is Professor Ou, I don't think I received the ballot.

**Senator Molitor:** I'm sorry, who is that? Can you send that to me in the chat box?

**Professor Ou:** Biao Ou.

**Senator Heberle:** So we are only supposed to vote for one person?

**Senator Molitor:** Correct. Only cast your ballot for one and then we will have a second ballot for the second representative. I didn't catch the name of the individual who did not receive a ballot.

**Professor Ou:** Biao Ou.

**Senator Molitor:** I don't have you listed as a senator.

**Professor Ou:** Oh, I replaced somebody else's seat.

**Senator Molitor:** Oh. I don't have you on the Faculty Senate roster. I apologize.

**Professor Ou:** Okay.

**Senator Molitor:** Is there anybody still waiting to cast a ballot? I have 30 votes now. Unless there is no objection, I move to close the ballot. I will send the results to Senators Brakel and Bigioni. President Brakel, do you want to go to the Health Science Campus representative ballot and then I can get these results to you?

**President Brakel:** Sure. Here we are looking at the first representative from the Health Science Campus and I will open the floor for nominations.

**Senator Lee:** I would like to nominate Bob Topp for the At-Large position, Health Science Campus.

**President Brakel:** Senator Topp, do you accept the nomination?

**Senator Topp:** Yes, I do.

**President Brakel:** I see in the chat we also have a nomination for David Giovannucci. Do you accept the nomination, Senator Giovannucci?

**Senator Giovannucci:** Yes, I do. Thank you.

**Senator Ali:** I have a question. Do the Health Science Campus senators nominate folks for the Health Science Campus?

**Senator Molitor:** That is correct.

**Senator Ali:** So who nominated the first person?

**Senator Lee:** I did.

**President Brakel:** Who nominated Bob Topp?

**Senator Lee:** Carolyn Lee did from the College of Nursing.

**President Brakel:** Okay, I heard a female voice. Now again, who nominated Senator Topp?

**Senator Lee:** I did.

**Senator Bigioni:** Did you get that President Brakel?

**President Brakel:** Thank you, Senator Lee. So we now have Senators Robert Topp and David Giovannucci as a nomination for representatives for the Health Science Campus. Are there additional nominations? I did not hear any. Did you hear any Senator Bigioni?

**Senator Bigioni:** I did not.

**President Brakel:** I didn't see any additional names in the chat. I'll entertain a motion to close these nominations.

**Senator Ali:** I move to close.

**Senator Tiwari:** Second.

**President Brakel:** All in favor say, 'aye.' Those nominations are closed. So Senator Molitor, we will wait for you.

**Senator Molitor:** I have a ballot that has Senators Giovannucci and Topp as the two nominees. Is that correct?



**President Brakel:** That is correct.

**Senator Molitor:** Almost there. It was sent to 20 Health Science Campus representatives. I am not going to receive this one, so I won't know when you received it. Qualtrics is saying it sent 20 emails and hopefully that is everyone. If you are a Health Science Campus senator, you should be able to cast your ballot now. President Brakel and Senator Bigioni, I sent you confirmation on the Main Campus ballot.

**President Brakel:** Yes, I've seen the results. Thank you. We will now announce the results of the first representative from the Main Campus At-Large. The elected representative is Renee Heberle.

**Senator Molitor:** I have 15 ballots cast from the Health Science Campus. Are there any other Health Science Campus representatives who have not cast a ballot yet? Okay, I will go ahead and close this ballot. President Brakel, if you want to start soliciting nominees for the second Main Campus representative.

**President Brakel:** Okay. So I will now entertain a second representative from the Main Campus representative. Do I now have a nomination?

**Senator Bigioni:** This is Senator Bigioni again. I would like to nominate Suzanne Smith.

**President Brakel:** Senator Smith, do you accept the nomination?

**Senator Smith:** I do. Thank you.

**President Brakel:** Thank you. Are there additional nominations?

**Unknown Speaker:** Dr. Shobha Ratnam.

**President Brakel:** This is for the Main Campus representatives.

**Unknown Speaker:** Oh, Main Campus-- I'm sorry.

**President Brakel:** Are there any additional nominations for the Main Campus representative?

**Senator Smith:** I will nominate Michael Kistner without asking him.

**Senator Kistner:** I will politely decline. Thank you.

**President Brakel:** Are there additional nominations?

**Senator Heberle:** This is Senator Heberle. I would like to nominate Senator Barnes if she will accept.

**President Brakel:** Senator Barnes, do you accept the nomination?

**Senator Barnes:** No, thank you, but thanks, Senator Heberle.

**Senator Coulter-Harris:** I would like to nominate Allyson Day.

**President Brakel:** Senator Day, do you accept the nomination?

**Senator Day:** I am flattered, but I cannot.

**President Brakel:** All right, any additional nominations?

**Unknown Speaker:** I will nominate Senator Coulter-Harris.

**President Brakel:** Senator Coulter-Harris, do you accept the nomination?

**Senator Coulter-Harris:** I am very flattered and honored but, no, I do not; I have so much to do this semester.

**President Brakel:** Any additional nominations?

**Senator Kistner:** I move to close the nominations.

**President Brakel:** We have a motion on the floor to close the nominations. Is there a second?

**Senator Niamat:** Second.

**President Brakel:** All those in favor, put 'aye' in the chat. That looks like we have closed the nominations. Senator Molitor, we only have one name, if I am not mistaken, that's in play right now and that is Senator Suzanne Smith and so we will vote in the chat. So those senators that are eligible to vote, please vote in the chat. Congratulations, Senator Smith.

**Senator Smith:** Thank you; thank you very much everybody.

**President Brakel:** We now have the Health Science ballot results initially. Senator Giovannucci was elected to continue to serve on the Executive Committee. So that brings us to our second round of nominations for the Health Science Campus. I will entertain some nominations for that.

**Senator Giovannucci:** I nominate Senator Ratnam.

**President Brakel:** Senator Ratnam, do you accept the nomination?

**Senator Ratnam:** Yes, I do. Are there additional nominations?

**Senator Tiwari:** I would like to nominate Senator Julie Murphy if she would accept.

**Senator J. Murphy:** I will accept.

**President Brakel:** And you did accept?

**Senator J. Murphy:** Yes.

**President Brakel:** Okay. Are there additional nominations? I don't hear anymore. Senator Bigioni, do you hear any?

**Senator Bigioni:** I did not.

**Senator Molitor:** Just to clarify, that was Julie Murphy and not Laura Murphy, correct?

**Senator Tiwari:** Correct, Senator Molitor.

**President Brakel:** So in a moment we will hear Senator Molitor telling us the email is out.

**Senator Molitor:** I think we need to close the ballot.

**President Brakel:** Thank you. Yes, we do need to close the ballot.

**Senator Tiwari:** I move to close the nominations.

**President Brakel:** I need a second.

**Senator Koch:** I second.

**President Brakel:** Okay. The Health Science Campus, please vote 'yes' in the chat. The nominations have been closed. So now we can proceed with actually the second representation from the Health Science Campus.

**Senator Molitor:** It was just sent to 20 Health Science Campus representatives. President Brakel, I still have the Ohio Faculty Council representative ballot.

**President Brakel:** Right, and that is the last one.

**Senator Molitor:** The emails have been sent. Again, I can't see it because I am not a Health Science Campus faculty member. It looks like we have 14 ballots cast so far out of the 20 emails I've sent. Are there any Health Science Campus faculty who have not been able to cast a ballot yet? All right. If you want to start soliciting nominations for the Ohio Faculty Council representative I will go ahead and get you the results.

**President Brakel:** Sure. For those of you who do not know what the Ohio Faculty Council rep. is, each institution across the state of Ohio, namely public institutions, has a representative to the Ohio Faculty Council, in which they discuss various issues that is going-on on their campus as well as interface with various state organizations where it happens to be the legislature, the chancellor's office, and sometimes the AAUP. It is just a variety of... In this past year the representative from our campus has been Senator Ainsworth Bailey. So now I will open up the floor for nomination for Ohio Faculty Council representative. The Ohio Faculty Council again, is a representative body that is made up of a member of each public institution across the state of Ohio. They meet at least once a month to discuss various issues of concern for higher education. They interface with the chancellor's office, with the legislature, AAUP and other entities as necessary to address issues related to higher education. Senator Bailey, if you wanted to make any more comments about what those duties...you can do so.

**Senator Bailey:** There is a monthly meeting that is usually held, when the pandemic is not around, in Columbus. We meet once a month under normal circumstances and we travel down to Columbus to discuss different issues related to education, what's going on in the college campuses throughout the state, and from time to time, what's going on with regards to state government policies and so forth.

**President Brakel:** So I will open up the floor for the Ohio Faculty Council representative.

**Senator Heberle:** I would like to nominate Senator Thompson-Casado if she would accept.

**President Brakel:** Senator Thompson-Casado, do you accept---

**Senator Thompson-Casado:** Thank you very much, but I decline.

**President Brakel:** Is there another nomination.

**Unknown Speaker:** I would like to nominate Senator Gregory.

**President Brakel:** Senator Gregory, do you accept the nomination?

**Senator Heberle:** I second that one.

**Senator Gregory:** Thanks, Senator Heberle. Sure, President Brakel. Thank you.

**President Brakel:** Okay.

**Senator Kistner:** I move to close the nominations.

**President Brakel:** I have a motion on the floor to close the nominations. Is there a second?

**Senator Tiwari:** I second.

**President Brakel:** All right. Thank you. We need to close the nominations. Please vote ‘yes’ in the chat. If I am not mistaken, still there is only one name as the nomination and that is Senator Gregory. We will just vote in the chat. If you so move, state ‘yes’ in the chat. Thank you. Congratulations to Senator Gregory. I think we have now elected all the officers for our Executive Committee. Once again, I will continue as President. Your President-Elect is Terry Bigioni. Your Secretary is Kim Nigem. Our Main Campus representatives are Renee Heberle and Suzanne Smith. Our Health Science representatives are David Giovannucci and Shobha Ratnam. Melissa Gregory is the Ohio Faculty Council representative. So those [members] are your Executive Committee for this year. I will be in touch with you about meetings as we move forward here.

The last item on our agenda for today is this classroom attendance policy. As I stated in my report, this comes out an audit from the state to get us into compliance with Title IV requirements. I don’t know if Provost Bjorkman is still on the call and if she would like to make any comments.

**Provost Bjorkman:** I am still here President Brakel. Thank you.

As President Brakel stated earlier, it is a normal audit that we have done occasionally by the state to make sure we are in compliance with Title IV funding, which is our financial aid funding for our students. One thing that they dinged us on, as I said, we needed a formal attendance verification policy or formal attendance policy, and so we put together a policy, which you see before you, just to meet this requirement. It really isn’t anything different than what we’ve normally done, but it states it as a policy. Thank you.

**President Brakel:** So I know you just got this really this morning. Do you have any questions or comments?

**Senator Molitor:** This is Senator Molitor. Provost Bjorkman, if I read it correctly, we are supposed to verify attendance after the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the semester. Is that correct?

**Provost Bjorkman:** That is correct.

**Senator Molitor:** Will the Registrar be sending a link similar to the grading portal submission?

**Provost Bjorkman:** We are still trying to work on how that is going to work. I talked with Julie today and we are going to come up with something soon – yes.

**Senator Molitor:** Thank you.

**President Brakel:** Any additional questions or comments?

**Senator Bigioni:** I have a quick question and I haven’t had my ‘afternoon coffee’ yet so I may have missed this, and I apologize if I did. The 15<sup>th</sup> day, is that calendar days or class days.

**President Bjorkman:** That is class days. It is basically the census date.

**Senator Bigioni:** Thank you.

**President Brakel:** Any additional questions? Do we feel comfortable enough to vote on this today? I’ve seen some people say yes in the chat. So if we are so inclined, I really won’t need a motion to, I guess, endorse this policy.

**Senator Molitor:** This is Senator Molitor. I move to endorse this attendance policy.

**Senator Kistner:** Second.

**President Brakel:** Is there further discussion on this item? I don't believe I hear any. Please vote 'yes' in the chat to endorse this policy and 'no' if you choose not to. It looks like this policy has been endorsed by Faculty Senate. Provost Bjorkman, we can move this to comments now.

**Provost Bjorkman:** Thank you very much; I appreciate it.

**President Brakel:** That brings us then to Items from the Floor. I thought we would be pressing up against 6 o'clock earlier. One item that I just want to mention here that I've been working on has been a Senate position statement with regard to the racial issues that were occurring this summer. So that will be coming forth now at the next meeting because I wasn't for sure that we would have enough time to get to it and to adequately discuss the issue. So that is coming and I just wanted to let you know that. We will also be bringing up the Constitution in the future because we have to kind of start that process all over again. So those will also be coming up in the next few meetings as well. So are there additional items from the floor that we need to address today?

**Senator Heberle:** President Brakel, is there a way to explain to those who are just coming on what the constitutional issues are and what we are starting---? I don't want to take a lot of time with it, just so people can be prepared and know what that is about.

**President Brakel:** Yes. Thank you. Right now our Constitution is kind of in the three different parts, but it is a little convoluted here and there. It really needed a lot of cleanup work done to it. The Senate has been working the last two years, and maybe a little bit longer than that to revise the Constitution so that whenever a change happens, such as reorganizational changes or whatever, that we don't have to totally revise the Constitution. The Constitution should be a really set document and then we will have Rules and Bylaws, that won't change the government's issues that are much more easily to be amended or changed compared to the Constitution because any changes to the Constitution has to go out to a vote to the entire faculty, whereas Bylaws and Rules are just by a vote of Senate. So that is what has been in the works. We were held up last year by really two things: one, we have to run the Constitution process through the Board of Trustees. Legal Affairs wanted to review the Constitution and it took a long time for that review to occur. Then there really wasn't enough time because of the Coronavirus and all that to really deal with getting it finally approved in the last [basically] month that we had. So we basically have to start over through that process and do a first read, second reading and all that process again. Hopefully, we can get that job done. So that is the Constitution kind of in a nutshell.

**Senator Heberle:** Thank you.

**President Brakel:** Anything else from the floor?

**Senator Giovannucci:** I would like to thank Dr. Molitor for running the election and being the Qualtrics guru. It is really appreciated.

**President Brakel:** Thank you, Senator Giovannucci and thank you again, Senator Molitor. Any additional things from the floor? Okay---

**Senator Heberle:** President Brakel, just briefly to get closure on it. I think we said there will be a Faculty Senate faculty survey about COVID policies, and I understand it is all a...point at this point. But I just wanted to make sure that I tell the folks I represent what happened because I told them it would be a

survey coming and then we didn't get word; so I just want to get closure on that so I can explain to them that whatever is the rationale for not doing it, or whatever it is.

**President Brakel:** Yes. There were a couple issues there. One was the fact that we were getting more flexibility for faculty, as well as some of logistics of getting the surveys setup well. There were some timing issues etc. and so that is why.

**Senator Heberle:** I just didn't want it to be coming from me because I just didn't know what the Executive Committee discussed. It makes sense to me sitting in on a meeting, but I wanted to get better sense from the Executive Committee what that was about.

**President Brakel:** I was trying to get going and I was looking at surveys from a couple of other institutions to get ours going. As I started looking at that, it became clear along with the messaging that the flexibility was really the way to go.

**Senator Heberle:** Thanks.

**President Brakel:** Any other questions? That brings us to a motion to adjourn. I will entertain a motion. Meeting adjourned at 5:57 P.M.

**IV.** Meeting adjourned at 5:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kim Nigem  
Faculty Senate Executive Secretary

Tape summary: Quinetta Hubbard  
Faculty Senate Administrative Secretary

