

LUC-AAUP MEETING MINUTES

Union EC meeting with President Allen

4/9/2021

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Attendees: Dr. Brenda Allen, Dr. James Gallagher, Dr. Moses Haimbodi,
Prof. Christina Kerns, Dr. Susan Safford, Dr. Zizwe Poe, Dr. Moses
Haimbodi, Prof. Emmanuel Ihejirika

Location: Zoom

The meeting began at 3:05 PM

1. Discussion Items:

A. Plan for commencement 2020 & 2021

- I. Representative from academic affairs is on the graduation committee and there is a sub-committee on Covid. Commencement will be on the football field to allow for social distancing. Spaces are being measured out for seats and students will only be allowed two guests.
- II. It is possible that there may be other viewing stations for extra guests on the tennis courts.
- III. Ashmun Gate will be open for faculty to enter campus.
- IV. Students who will not be able to return will have a virtual commencement. They will submit a photo that will be displayed when conferring the degree.
- V. Only 20-30% capacity will be allowed for Covid safety.
- VI. Receptions with students will need to be considered by faculty. We should observe as much distance as possible.
- VII. Concerns were raised about shaking hands and handling the diplomas. Dr. Allen said that this has been prepared for with the use of gloves and sanitation of hands between shaking. There will be longer interval pauses between graduates / the lineup, which will help mitigate spread of the virus. The stage will be extended to have more space.
- VIII. No one has to do anything they do not feel comfortable doing. CDC protocols will be followed for those who choose to participate.
- IX. Students will not all be vaccinated, however there is a protocol for students returning to campus. The student must have a negative Covid test (24 hours prior) or student needs to be tested when they arrive on campus on Wednesday

when Senior week begins. Once students are on campus for senior week they will not be allowed to leave.

- X. Faculty are not obligated to attend graduation because it is outside the side letter contract. However, Faculty are encouraged to participate.

B. Covid Related Committees

- I. Lu-AAUP has requested having an EC member on the Fall 2021 reopening committee. Dr. Allen requested that the EC send their recommendation for membership to Harry Stinson, who is leading this committee.
- II. Commencement committee should express any concerns to Dr. Allen to resolve. Dr Allen will assess whether the Admin will hire others to support commencement, if there is not enough faculty.
- III. Faculty Affairs will send out a survey to assess how many Faculty will be in attendance at the commencement.

C. State Appropriations Meeting

- I. Concerns about consolidating Universities though disbanding the PASSCHE system.
- II. Dr. Allen cited the overall higher-ed first-year enrollment decrease from 2008-2010, when it peaked. Population data for college aged students has decreased since 2010, however, institutions continued to inflate budgets based on continued growing enrollment. The state expects continued growth, although the population data does not support this.
- III. Lincoln has attempted to align Admin increases with student support.
- IV. Dr. Allen is predicting slow incremental growth but is planning to grow more with retention.
- V. Dr. Allen also projects growth in enrollment with adult education at SACE, this will be supported with the hire of a Dean for SACE.
- VI. Lincoln Admin are considering how to grow revenue other than higher enrollment.
- VII. In order to bring in more funding in the past, Lincoln has tried to add students without adjusting other support systems. Lincoln also added programs that were very expensive and difficult to support long term.
- VIII. Enrollment is flat, but at a good pace for the faculty and support systems Lincoln has. Lincoln needs to make the current budget work, while trying to push retention.
- IX. Dr. Allen stated that 2200-2250 students is our optimal enrollment plan but enrollment will need to be increased slowly over the next 10 years.
- X. What would a different funding model for PASSCHE look like if it weren't related to enrollment, but were related to performance?

D.

E. Announcements

- I. BOT meeting is next week on campus.
- II. Lincoln is waiting for rescue plan check to help Institution balance the budget. This will allow Lincoln to take some institutional revenue away from scholarship and replace that with gov't funds.
- III. On a White House call it was indicated that Lincoln would not know its allocation for a few more weeks. If Lincoln don't know the amount by next week Admin will have to delay a budget proposal until the amount is confirmed.
- IV. There is a Ed policy & Gen Ed committee joint committee on Thursday. To talk about administrative structures and goals.

Adjourned 3:55

Christina Kerns, Lincoln University AAUP Secretary