

Mont Alto Faculty Senate (MAFS)

Minutes

Friday, Feb. 26, 12:20 – 1:10

- Call to order and announcements
 - Faculty senate ballot open until Sunday (2/28) at midnight. Please vote if you are full-time faculty.
- Approval of minutes from Jan. 14, 2021
 - Minutes approved.
- Comments from the Chancellor
 - For pre-arrival testing → 493 tests were done before students arrived and 13 were positive.
 - For universal testing this week → 250 students were tested (rapid testing) 5 were positive
 - 4 of these positive cases were confirmed and 1 was a false positive.
 - Another 156 tests yesterday. No positives.
 - Random testing will start March 1st. This will include up to 2% of faculty, staff, and students.
 - Commencement: University is hoping for an in-person commencement. No final determinations until March and the details are still to be determined.
 - A potential speaker has been confirmed if the commencement is in person.
- Comments from the DAA
 - The auditorium project is complete and it is open.
 - It is available as a classroom with limited seating capacity due to COVID.
 - Fall and Summer courses → summer will be transition period to something closer to normal.
 - Reduced room capacity but moving to more in-person classes.
 - Encouraged to use in-person as much as possible.
 - Plan to return to full-capacity in fall and remove COVID designations with normal in-person delivery modes.
 - There is an exception process for faculty (and probably students) who cannot return due to health issues. More information about this is coming soon.
 - Financial aid consequences → not sure if the requirement of 50% in-person classes will continue or if synchronous courses will count for the requirements. Mike is continuing to look into this.
 - There is a plan B for proceeding next fall, just in case.
 - New guidance and sample statements on camera use that can be found here: <https://keepteaching.psu.edu/teaching-and-testing/instruction-and-pedagogy/use-of-webcams/>

- Comments from University Faculty Senators
 - Jacob Moore: no new meetings since last MAFS meeting. Next meeting will be March 9th.
 - Please send questions to Jacob Moore or Renee prior to the next meeting.
- Comments from SGA President
 - There will be a “lion bench” on campus, probably at the beginning of summer.
 - SGA fully supports faculty encouraging the use of cameras during classes. However, please be mindful that not all students are in a position to turn cameras on and do not penalize students for not having cameras on.
- Committee Reports and New Business:
 - LionTank pitch competition: Helen McGarry
 - The event will take place March 25th
 - Registration is open on the Launchbox website: <https://montalto.psu.edu/launchbox/liontank>
 - Participants and audience will need to register.
 - This is a great event for students and allows for opportunities for entrepreneurship experience. There are cash prizes for the winners.
 - Audience has the chance to win a Kindle device.
 - Faculty Affairs Committee: Survey results presentation
 - Slow year for funding from PDF due to cancelled conferences.
 - There is a process to carry money over from one year to the next.
 - There is not a need to try and spend all the money this year due to fear of losing out on the money.
 - Results of the faculty survey were presented.
 - Question from Kira - can the faculty affairs committee act as a source of support where faculty can submit questions to the committee as needed?
 - The faculty affairs committee will continue to explore next steps as a result of the survey and feedback.
 - Academic Support Center update: Marla Minnich
 - There is an increased use of the ASC in recent weeks.
 - Students can use on campus or remote tutoring.
 - A PowerPoint containing additional reminders was presented.
 - Please email Marla or Kendra with additional questions or comments.
 - Sustainability Committee: Kristi Addleman Ritter
 - This committee is seeking new members.
 - Students are also able to get involved.
 - SGA President Sonja Loewe will mention this to students.

- Academic Festival: Kim Herrmann
 - Proposals due: Friday, March 19 (in 3 weeks, before March MAFS).
 - Please encourage students to submit proposals.
 - It's a fantastic experience for them to get out of their shells and practice communicating their work to a friendly environment.
 - Academic Festival: Friday, 4/16 (Week 13).
 - Remember that it's easy to donate to the academic festival via automatic payroll deduction.
 - Links:
<https://montalto.psu.edu/academics/festival>
<https://montalto.psu.edu/academics/festival/apply>
- Ombudsperson: Linghao Zhong
 - Due to time constraints, Linghao will present at an upcoming MAFS meeting.
- Comments and recommendations for the good of the campus
 - N/A due to time constraints.
- Adjournment
Adjourned at 1:14pm

Next MAFS meeting Friday, March 26 from 12:20 – 1:10pm