

**Academic Deans' Council**  
**October 8, 2020**  
**Provost's Conference Room – Zoom Meeting**  
**Minutes**

**Present:** S. Clouse, J. Klingemann, L. Mayrand, R. McCabe, M. Salisbury, P. Swets,  
D. Topliff, J. Wegner. (Not Present: C. Jones)

**Minutes:**

1. Topic: Minutes from October 1, 2020.
  - Minutes approved.
2. Topic: Announcements (D. Topliff)
  - No new announcements.
3. Topic: Study Abroad (D. Topliff)
  - D. Topliff asked the committee if there were any issues regarding the cancellation of next summer's study abroad programs. With no issues expressed by council members, D. Topliff confirmed that he will be cancelling the programs at this time and will send out an email.
4. Topic: Title IX (D. Topliff)
  - D. Topliff said there has been some confusion regarding the notification with Title IX and/or ADA accommodations. He stated pregnancy falls under Title IX and not ADA. Pregnancy is a gender issue and not a disability. He further explained that if this situation calls for an accommodation then the notification will come from the Title IX office. It is not appropriate for faculty to ask or require documentation from a student in these circumstances. This has already been taken care of through the Title IX office. D. Topliff requested that the council members relay this information to the Department Chairs and then to the faculty.
  - S. Clouse and P. Swets asked if faculty have the freedom to go ahead and work with students that request these accommodations directly. D. Topliff said that this was okay, but to have faculty encourage students to go through appropriate offices such as Title IX or Student Disability Services.
5. Topic: Graduation (D. Topliff)
  - D. Topliff stated that emails containing the Google survey have been sent to prospective graduates. So far we have had around 180 respond with approximately 139 wishing to participate in the face-to-face ceremony. Follow-up emails will be sent out Friday and the beginning of next week for those students that have not responded. Next Friday is the deadline to complete the survey.
  - D. Topliff reminded the council members that the face-to-face ceremony and virtual ceremony will be filmed separately and then combined into one and broadcast on YouTube December 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. The virtual ceremony will be shot within the next couple of weeks. He explained that the President, Provost and two others were the only members participating in the platform party; however, the Deans will still be introduced.
  - D. Topliff said that there will still be a Senior Send-Off event at the Alumni Center following the face-to-face ceremony. Jamie Akin would like for the College Deans to participate in this event if possible. All safety protocols will be followed.

- D. Topliff reiterated that as a backup plan, all graduating students are being asked to submit pictures.
6. Topic: Current Situation (D. Topliff)
- D. Topliff explained that the COVID numbers are on the rise and this is in large part due to surveillance testing in Athletics. Most of the positive cases are asymptomatic. He further stated, that as of this morning, there are 74 active cases across campus. Most are in off campus isolation.
  - D. Topliff stated that our Contact Tracers are on top of the situation and doing a good job. He said the university is not close to a shutting down situation. The trigger for a shut-down will be the capacity for us to isolate students on campus.
7. Topic: Roundtable
- S. Clouse stated that the College of Education has had several faculty receive exemplary Blackboard awards. As a result, they will be hosting some brown bag sessions to share best practices with other faculty across campus.
  - R. McCabe stated that some members of the Faculty Senate would like to have a set of guidelines for Travel prior to asking for approval. D. Topliff stated that he would send out a draft with the guidelines.

## **Adjournment**