



2020-2021 FACULTY SENATE

FULL MINUTES OF AUGUST 4, 2020

[WebEx Meeting Recording](#) Password: WngMHS*5

The special meeting of the 2020-2021 Faculty Senate was held on **Tuesday, August 4, 2020**, at 2:10 as a WebEx meeting.

Agenda Item I. Call to Order

Purificación Martínez, Chair of the Faculty, called the meeting to order at 2:14 p.m.

Agenda Item II. Approval of Minutes

The [July 21, 2020](#) meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Agenda Item III. Special Order of the Day

A. Roll Call

Senators absent were: Professors Mike O'Driscoll (Coastal Studies), Troy Sluder (Dental Medicine) Amber Thomas (English), Chal Benson (Mathematics), Betsy Tuttle-Newhall (Medicine)

Alternates present were: Professors Laura Mazow (Anthropology), Wayne Godwin (Art & Design), David Mallinson (Geological Sciences), Laxmansa Katwa (Medicine), Gabriel DiMartino (Music)

B. Announcements

Chair Martínez reminded all that Fall Faculty Convocation is scheduled for August 7, 2020 at 9am and that it would be virtual with a video livestream. The Convocation agenda features an invited address by Interim Chancellor Ron Mitchelson, and presentations from Professors Joseph Lee (Health & Human Performance) and Ken Wyatt (Art & Design).

Chair Martínez shared that the UNC System Office released the Covid-19 Budget Reduction Scenario planning responses for all system institutions. This is linked in the Announcements. ECU's response had been shared with the faculty officers and the Chair of the Educational Policies and Planning Committee (Mark Bowler) in advance of providing it to the system office. She stated that Interim Chancellor Mitchelson indicated there are no expectations that the 25-50 percent reductions would become a reality. Professor Bowler did a preliminary evaluation for the faculty officers of ECU's response, and the same will be done by the University Budget Committee in case the information in the response could be of use in future budget cut discussions.

Chair Martínez thanked those who have agreed to serve on university committees as representatives of the chair of the faculty and the faculty senate. Some committee vacancies remain, so she requested interested faculty members reach out to her.

Speaking privileges have been granted to LaNika Wright, Bill Koch, Angela Anderson, and Mary Farwell.

Chair Martínez said today's Special Faculty Senate meeting was called to ensure that all faculty begin the academic year with the updated plans for reopening.

C. Ron Mitchelson, Interim Chancellor

Interim Chancellor Mitchelson said he was given 12 questions. The questions are similar to ones that are being discussed in a gap analysis that the university has been doing on the Return of Pirate Nation Plan. He said we have made tremendous progress over the last two weeks that will be of aid in answering some of these questions. Interim Chancellor Mitchelson lined up a few experts who would be able to do more justice to some of these questions.

Q1: As reported by John Hopkins University (<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/testing/individual-states>), North Carolina has experienced declines in new cases over the past two weeks, but we have not flattened the curve yet. The premises to reopen (flattened curve, no community spread, only hot spots which could be controlled via tracing, widely available testing capabilities, etc.) are not present. Why are we reopening?

A1: Chancellor agrees that the virus has not cooperated well with our efforts to be able to arrest it in the United States. He shared that the new UNC president suggested that one would not be human if one did not feel some anxiety over the reopen decision. Why are we reopening? We really are needed. Our students need us in ways that are more than virtual, whether that is in the classroom, the studio, the labs, the clinics; we have so much to offer the students and they need us. The region needs our work as well. While we have learned how to interact virtually, I think we all understand we are missing something. When it comes to mission, the success of students and our region, we should make every effort to open in person. The students, their parents, the public, the legislature, the Board of Governors, and the region are all counting on us to open successfully. We are going to do our best to try, to be true to the mission. There are a few things that help to provide some confidence. There are days when the Chancellor feels great about what we are trying to do, and days when he does not, but we are going to try our best. We are fortunate with our medical school and world-class medical center in Vidant with untested capacity to serve us. As we have filled in the gaps and holes in the planning process, this has been a source of confidence. We may be capable to teach the region. Maybe the headline down the road is the Pirates defeat coronavirus.

Q2: ECU's Covid-19 dashboard (<https://news.ecu.edu/coronavirus-updates/confirmed-cases/>) does not present an accurate picture. Why is ECU not adopting a more transparent dashboard, such as Appalachian State (<https://www.appstate.edu/go/coronavirus/>).

A2: ECU's is a simple dashboard that shows the number of cases of students and employees that have been reported within a week. These numbers are coming from Student Health and the Office of Prospective Health. The data source is improving remarkably over the next few days, as we are finalizing an agreement with Pitt County Health and receiving a daily feed from Vidant Health. Our dashboard will be as good as App State's in the near future. In order to get these numbers available to the public we have to get these agreements in place, and we are just about there.

Q3: The American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers has issued guidelines and recommendations to reopen universities safely (<https://www.ashrae.org/technical-resources/reopening-of-schools-and-universities>). Could you describe to what extent ECU has adopted those recommendations and guidelines? Which ones have been followed? Which ones have not been followed? Can everybody be certain that, with our masks on, we can breathe safely in all ECU's buildings at all times?

A3: Interim Chancellor Mitchelson said that Associate Vice Chancellor Bill Bagnell has been working long and hard at this to get our campus air quality as good as it can be. Bagnell then began his response by saying that ECU is doing everything we can within the systems we have to make them

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as efficient as we can. Bagnell has received a lot of emails on this question and shared that ECU has a robust and mature maintenance program. ECU has technicians performing maintenance, looking at control and filters and how the system is performing. All of the reports show that ECU has a strong maintenance system and a clean maintenance system.

Bagnell has been asked if ECU has MERV 13-14 filters. Most of the health sciences buildings have a prefilter of a MERV 8 then a final filter that is a MERV 14. On the main campus, SciTech, Howell, and Bate have those capabilities. The other buildings do not have the capability and have the highest rated filters with a minimum of a two inch high efficiency pleated to a MERV 8. Regular PMs are completed on those. Filter replacements are performed 3-4 times a year. Facilities Services note that those filters are not covered in dust. The cooling coils that these filters are designed to protect are chemically cleaned on a regular PM schedule. Facilities Services checks controls to make sure everything is operating. During the planning discussion, our division learned that we need to start our air handling units on a regular schedule. The unit worked on a setback when the university had low occupancy. Two weeks ago, Facilities Services put the units into regular operation to ensure all of the units were functioning properly.

When you look at the ASHRAE standards in terms of preventive maintenance, ECU is meeting them and has a good air handling system. In terms of studies that report that air distribution contributes to the spread of the virus, that is air distribution within the building where someone coughs and spreads the virus; not that the virus is picked up in the air handling unit and then redistributed to air circulation. Even if that were the case, ECU has a high dispersion. The university has old systems. The amount of outside air that the university brought into our buildings on an old standard was about 20 CFM per person, and that is calculated on how many people could occupy the building, not who actually occupied the building. As those standards have been modified in recent years, a lot of those numbers of outside air changes is down to five and ten. ECU has not adjusted this. In many cases, the units already exceed the number of outside air changes. Facilities Services has increased outside air in a lot of the buildings to the point changes need to be made by pulling them back a bit because the findings are that bringing in too much outside air in these hot, humid environments, leads to the buildings beginning to lose temperature and humidity control in the building. This would lead to mold.

Bagnell has received questions on opening doors and windows. The systems are not capable of handling the extra load that comes from opening doors and windows. The capability to handle temperature control is not able to be maintained, and can lead to mold and mildew as a result. It is best to allow cooling, filtration, and dehumidification to be handled through the unit.

Q4: Recent research indicates that airborne person to person transmission is more significant than surface transmission (<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/07/scourge-hygiene-theater/614599/>). At this point, it is clear that social distancing is a key component to stop the spread of the virus. Have all classrooms been assigned to allow for 6 feet separation among students? If not, could you explain what exceptions have been made and why? A faculty member can request a change of classroom, but beyond that, it will be useful to know who needs to know that the new classroom capacity is incorrect.

A4: Interim Chancellor Mitchelson handed this question off to Vice Provost Angela Anderson. Anderson said the university classrooms have been reviewed based on metrics ECU was given from UNC System, which was 3-6 feet between each person. In most instances, ECU went to six feet, but in some instances we went to five feet per person, in 110 classrooms. Labs are 16 feet per person. For a few labs, the headcounts were reduced and Anderson's team notified the Deans of those and

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adjustments were made for the classrooms or class labs. We reduced headcounts for some of those class labs as a result. For the rooms where faculty were unsure about the student count or where adjustments need to be made, Anderson said she would be happy to work with her partners and Facilities to review those; they have already made some revisions and moved some classrooms around.

Q5: Will all classrooms be clearly marked so students will know when entering where to sit or not to sit?

A5: Interim Chancellor Mitchelson asked Dawn Pilgrim-Dunn in IPAR and stated her reply: "Yes sir, Facilities has ordered signage for for all 110 classrooms (the regular classrooms) for clear demarcation of appropriate seating choices. Class lab 210 managers will be responsible for marking any seats that aren't appropriate. The Central Reservation Office will be marking Hendrix and Wright Auditoriums with appropriate signage. Lastly, ITCS is marking computer lab stations for ease in locating a computer station."

Q6: CDC has very specific recommendations about timeframe, process for contact tracing, etc. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/open-america/contact-tracing/index.html>). How exactly will tracing work at ECU? Will we follow all CDC recommendations? What is the timeframe for tracing to hear someone reported positive? Will the process be similar to the way is represented in the CDC's infographics? (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/contact-tracing-infographic.html>). The CDC also recommends that tracers communicate with people in their own language. Has anything been done to see that this will be the case?

A6: Interim Chancellor Mitchelson said ECU Student Health Services Director LaNika Wright is our campus leader on this particular initiative for university level tracing and would be providing the update for this question. Wright said for contact tracing the university is working with the Pitt County Health Department and following CDC guidelines. The hope is to get in contact with those who have been exposed to Covid-19 with a goal of 24 hour turnaround. ECU will be tracing for students, faculty, and staff. ECU will not be doing tracing for the community at large. The tracers will use a protocol from the Pitt County Health Department on what questions to ask and how we filter information back to the state. There are no measures in place for those who do not speak English as their first language, or as a language that they speak in the university setting. It is generally understood or assumed that those individuals will be able to communicate in English.

Q7: The reopening documents are constantly being updated with new materials. It is very difficult to determine what has been updated. Is there a way to make it more efficient to see what is being updated?

A7: Interim Chancellor Mitchelson asked University Communications about this. The Return of Pirate Nation website is managed by Creative Services. They will look for an efficient way to manage updates and are exploring how to report changes on the website.

Q8: The culture of compliance is a key element to keep ECU healthy. However, multiple reports indicate that there are many people on campus (employees, students, subcontractors) who are not wearing masks or are wearing masks incorrectly. Social distancing is not kept. It should be clearly understood that nobody wants to create a police state, but at the same time these questions are important: How does ECU plan to address non-compliance, in particular when someone knows of people who refuse to comply but they are not in direct supervisory line or not a faculty in classroom? A hot line? An e-mail? If that is the way, how will those reports be handled?

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A8: The Chancellor said that compliance issues have been on his mind for a couple of weeks as reports have been sent directly to him of people not wearing masks. Despite the distraction of the hurricane, he put a message out this morning to confirm that wearing masks is not just an expectation, but it is a regulation. Mitchelson said that if we cannot wear masks, we will fail. The communication on this has been shared on the employee-side using ECU Official and has been shared on social media for the student side. Mitchelson was sent a group photo of what appeared to be seven students with five not wearing masks, and the others not wearing the masks appropriately. He is counting on us to hold each other accountable, but also to have a mechanism to report to prevent heated confrontations. There is a tool to report concerns on students on the OSRR website. He will work to market it a bit on the employee side. University Communications and HR will develop a form to add to the Return of the Pirate Nation website. This will be routed to Employee Relations which will then contact the supervisor for the appropriate discussion. This is a regulation where there can be sanctions for violation. ECU will have a culture of compliance or the institution will not be successful in reopening. It is the least we can do to protect each other.

Q9: It is not a question of if but when faculty members become too sick to teach, someone teaching face to face may get sick, but faculty teaching online may also get sick. Even if we have to switch to online as last Spring, faculty may get too sick to continue. Will the university commit to paying for overloads for faculty who have to take over for a colleague who's too sick to teach?

A9: The Chancellor said that ECU has a practice of doing this. In 20 years of being at ECU, when an employee is sick, the university has paid for the substitute instructional support. It would become a capacity issue if the volume is large. If the volume is that large, ECU may not continue on campus instruction.

Q10: As per your memorandum of July 24, the BOG has expanded Chancellors' powers to deal with budget shortages in relationship with staff. Do you anticipate a need to use those expanded powers in the foreseeable future? If so, how?

A10: The system has expanded the authority for furloughs and temporary salary reductions. There is no current plan to use these authorities. There were furloughs issued due to loss in revenue stream. When not in person, there is a disruption in revenue streams and potential for salary reduction. The university is planning to reopen, and there is no plan at this time for additional furloughs or salary reductions even though those authorities do exist. That can change. The university is going to do the best to reopen.

Q11: In your memorandum, you also mentioned that BOG is considering similar tools for faculty. What do you know about this?

A11: The Chancellor read the following footnote from the memo that contained these authorities, "The System Office is preparing guidance related to procedures for the potential termination of faculty employment, because of financial exigency, or a major program curtailment/elimination pursuant to section 605 of the code, and we'll share this with institutions in the near future." Mitchelson has seen nothing and stated that financial exigency is a pretty dramatic declaration from any system of any institution with dramatic impacts on the ability to borrow money or the bond rating, so what has been stated in that footnote is pretty dramatic. A chancellors' meeting with new system president Peter Hans is tomorrow. The system office is not the same system office that wrote this memorandum. Several offices have changed with the new leadership, including the CFO. If the system is willing to declare financial exigency, the institution would be in a world of hurt.

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Q12: The Board of Governors (BOG) has given a great deal of independence to Chancellors to deal with budget shortages, but has not given that independence to campuses to deal with their own particular situations related to Covid-19. Could you help us understand the difference in criteria?

A12: The chancellor said the face-to-face disruption affected our revenue stream. Chairman Ramsey requested projected cuts to illustrate how difficult things could be if the institutions did not reopen in person. ECU is staying the course. The chancellor believes the BOG is not suggesting to the world that it is not willing or able to consider if a campus can be open to in-person instruction. The chancellor believes that we would be considered individually, but the authority is not with the chancellors. He believes we would be listened to by the BOG if an institution made a case on being open or closed. He believes it is not all institutions or none. He said that he has heard that they would listen to individual cases indirectly and from the new system president who has suggested some level of autonomy in decision making about the fall semester and the potential need to pivot. He thinks it would need to be a good case made to get there.

Questions

Professor DiMartino (Music) asked what the metrics are to stay in person or to return online. Interim Chancellor Mitchelson said there are no concrete answers. He thinks ECU will see an unavoidable increase in cases. Hospitalizations would be one metric that will be watched very carefully. The Vidant report today said there were sixteen people in ICU; ICU counts would also be something to look at. He said that Vice-Chancellor Stacy had said a lot has been learned about Covid-19 treatments over these past few months. Mitchelson shared that ECU has had at least two known hospitalizations: one student and one faculty member. It is not like we will not see additional hospitalizations out of our effort.

Professor Brimhall (Human Development & Family Science) asked about cleaning protocols and whether that would be handled by Facilities or by faculty. Interim Chancellor Mitchelson said the university cleaning protocol is a one-pager. Faculty clean their own spaces, not the full classrooms. The students can clean their surfaces with a wipe from the wipes provided just outside the classroom. Increased cleaning protocols by Facilities are for high touch areas and restrooms. Mitchelson turned over the question to Bagnell who reiterated that, and said that there is not enough time or resources for Facilities to go in and clean classrooms between classes. The wipes are there for students who wish to use them for their spaces. Mitchelson then reminded all that the mask is the primary defense; transmission by surfaces is much smaller of a concern.

Professor Thompson (Biology) followed up on the space allocation that Anderson mentioned regarding the 16 feet per person for labs and said that research labs are using 150-200 square feet per person as a safe capacity, and stated that that is a large discrepancy. She stated that 16 square feet per person would allow for a very high capacity and queried how was the 16 feet figure devised and asked if it was reasonable.

Vice Provost Anderson said that this figure came from UNC System guidance, and said that we would have to look at how the calculations for the particular space was done. She would like for Thompson to send her the room number and that they could have a more detailed conversation about this offline.

Professor Mazow (Anthropology) was curious about contact tracing. She asked if a student in one of our classes tested positive or self-declared as positive, would the faculty member get the message

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the same as when the faculty member receives a message that a student has the flu, and also asked what is the responsibility of the instructor? Does the instructor notify all the students in the class who tested positive, do they add a note to the chair so no one else sits in that seat? She asked for some clarity on what the responsibility is of the faculty member once they receive that message.

Director Wright said the faculty member would get a notification; it is not information that would need to be shared to students or anyone in a classroom. Dr. Wright's team would do the contact tracing and reach out to ask the instructor about the classroom practices, including if the students wear masks and sit six feet apart; this will help tracers determine who needs to be contacted. Wright requested instructors do not share that with the class as far as surfaces go. If the classroom is being cleaned as it should by the time we find out a person has been diagnosed with Covid-19, we are probably past the time that anything differently in terms of cleaning would be done. Mitchelson reiterated that it is crucial to have assigned seating with a seating chart; it will make a big difference.

Professor DiMartino (Music) asked what our policies are for positive students.

Interim Chancellor Mitchelson said we have leased space in an apartment complex for students to be isolated or quarantined. The students will have food provided to them, and then requested Vice Chancellor Hardy speak further on this topic. Hardy shared that we have an apartment complex for students who have tested positive. The students will be at the apartment until they are released by Student Health. The students will work with their professors on if they are able to complete their work virtually. There is a system in place for how the students would be transported to and from that particular site. She wanted to thank the HHP department for aiding with this aspect. If a student tests positive, the first option would be to see if they would be able to go back home first. If they are not able to do that for any reason, then ECU would place them in the particular apartment complex and follow a protocol where the students can get meals and there is a process in place for that. Student Health will check with those students on a regular basis with phone calls and virtual checks to make sure they are ok. When they are clear, they would return to the resident halls. In the meantime, those areas will be cleaned appropriately both at the apartment complex as well as in the dorms. The isolation and quarantine protocol is on the ECU website with much more detail can also be found on the Faculty Senate webpage.

D. Grant Hayes, Acting Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Acting Provost Hayes shared that ECU's current total enrollment is 28,471. Enrollment is up by 167 students from last year. Student credit hours are also up by 1 percent. The university ended this recruitment cycle with the most freshman applications in ECU's history with over 22,500 applications. There is a slightly smaller freshman class this fall. As of today, ECU has 4,264 which is down by 149 students at this point last year. The Provost believes that considering the circumstances, this is good. ECU is 17 days out from census. As far as transfer students, ECU is up by 43 students with a total of 1,883. Graduate enrollment is up by 2 percent in headcount and up by four percent in student credit hours. He wanted to share this good news with the faculty and wanted to thank the faculty for efforts in this recruitment cycle and with retention. His responses to questions provided in advance of this meeting follow below.

Q1: The Space Planning Committee has determined that it is not possible to allow faculty to teach courses outdoors. Could you explain the process to reach this decision? Also, what will need to happen so this is a viable option for Spring 2021?

A1: For the fall semester, the space planning committee decided against this idea due to weather challenges, such as heat, sunburn, and dehydration. No course sections have been scheduled

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outdoors for the fall. The Provost's office will look at the possibility of spring course scheduling outdoors.

Q2: What is the percentage of courses that are face to face/hybrid vs. DE as of today? Do you expect that number to increase?

Acting Provost Hayes said this fall ECU is offering 4,034 course sections. 2,239 of those sections are face to face, and 1,795 are online. He stated around 44% of classes are online.

Q3: Do all face to face/hybrid courses for block 1 have classrooms assigned? Do all those classrooms allow for proper social distancing? How about for block 2?

All course sections in the first block as well as the fifteen week format have assigned classrooms. A handful of courses in Block 2 remain to receive classroom assignments.

Q4: What is the percentage of courses that remain in the 15-week schedule vs. courses in the 7.5-week schedule? Is this lower or higher than anticipated?

Acting Provost Hayes said 1,733 sections are in the 15 week format, and 2,301 sections are in the 7 ½ week format.

Questions

No one had questions at this time.

E. Mark Stacy, Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences and Dean of Brody School of Medicine

Vice Chancellor Stacy provided the following remarks:

“Good Afternoon! I appreciate the chance to talk with you this afternoon, and think we are at a critical juncture in the future of the nation and this university.

Our lack of federal coordination and the absence of the US in world leadership will mean that we will be living in this pandemic for possibly years. This has changed my thinking about how we try to begin a school year. It is simply: we have to try. If we isolate all of NC for 4 months, we will likely stop the spread, but unless the federal government requires this of the nation, carriers will bring it back.

So, maybe here, in rural NC we can as a community unite, test, track and isolate to the point that we can begin to reinvent ECU, and set a standard that others can follow. I believe we will have to reinvent the university, and to do this, we must do all we can to save the university. That means trying to have a successful semester starting next week.

As Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences and Dean of the Brody School of Medicine, my hopes and worries are specific to four populations: faculty, staff, students and patients. We have proven that we can be safe in our clinical spaces. We will see about our classrooms and labs. We will also be most worried about the times we are not in these places where we are more vigilant. Restaurants, bars, stadiums, theatres, churches are where we risk our health. Please stay at work or home.

As for the Division of Health Sciences' policies and procedures, we really do not differ from Academic Affairs, but our ratios of classroom and experiential learning do. We have spent a

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great deal of time thinking about how this works, and I look forward to answering your questions.

Q1: Dr. Paul Barry is ECU's Chief Medical Coordinator for ECU (title might not be correct). Could you explain to us what is his role?

A1: Dr. Barry is the Director of the Office of Prospective Health. The office treats work-related injuries and deals with radiation/laser safety, biologic safety, infection control, and other employee health issues. Since the Covid-19 pandemic began, the office has also offered consultation, telephonic screening, and test ordering for the coronavirus.

Q2: Under what circumstances should ECU's employees contact Dr. Barry or not at all?

A2: Employees should contact their personal physicians for guidance or questions concerning Covid-19. Employees can also call ECU Physicians or Dr. Barry for assistance. I am pleased to report that the Brody School of Medicine Pathology Department which ECU Physicians and Dr. Barry use for testing is generally able to return test results within 24 hours, whereas the commercial laboratories, often used by community physicians, sometimes take a week or more to report results.

Q3: Are there differences among health providers in recommending tests, or reporting tests results or are all the same in Pitt County?

A3: There is some variation among providers in the community for recommending Covid-19 tests, but ECU Physicians, Student Health Services, and the Office of Prospective Health follow CDC guidelines for dealing with this pandemic.

Q4: Health Sciences colleges and programs are very different from Academic Affairs colleges and programs. Could you explain to us what are the safety precautions that your division had to take in order to protect faculty in Health Sciences?

A4: Health Sciences students rely heavily on experiential learning. Students receive extra training about the pandemic, and they are given clear guidance on wearing the proper personal protective equipment (PPE). Additionally, they are discouraged from seeing high risk patients in clinics. When they have off-site rotations, the facility must demonstrate adherence to OSHA guidelines for protecting their employees and students.

Q5: What are the areas where faculty in Health Sciences are more at risk than Academic Affairs faculty, what has your division done to protect them?

A5: Likewise, faculty are provided appropriate PPE and guidance for reducing their exposures to potential Covid-19 patients in the clinics, especially in areas where high risk/symptomatic patients may present for treatment. All patients are screened prior to their seeing providers, and those individuals who may be symptomatic of the disease are isolated from other staff and patients. Also, virtual visits have been used in many clinics to reduce the possibility of faculty and staff exposure to the disease. In general, the Health Sciences colleges and programs are very much like Academic Affairs colleges and programs... we should all wear masks, maintain social distancing, and wash/sanitize our hands frequently.

Q6: Are there differences among health providers in recommending tests, or reporting tests results or are all the same in Pitt County?

A6: Ideally, all Vidant Health and ECU Physicians clinicians should be following the same enterprise testing algorithms that we update regularly. We all use Vidant Health lab PCR and

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Serology. We use 6 days as the cut off to consider ordering a test after a close exposure. Both Vidant Health and ECU Physicians have protocols that we follow for reporting results and following up on positives that we order. The differences may occur if an employee is seen at a private practice that may not have access to the same testing capacity that we have or similar resources. Also, the challenge may be if a patient was tested at a community testing event through the health department.

Q7: We all understand what are the circumstances when an employee should get a test, with that in mind, what is the easiest and fastest way an ECU employee can get a test and results?

A7: 1. Contact your medical home first and consult with your physician. 2. If your physician does not offer testing, contact ECU Physicians Rapid Access at 744-0555 or our main information line at 744-1111. We offer virtual consultations and depending on the circumstances nurse driven Covid testing protocols. Our goal is to accommodate any patient's Covid related need within 24 hrs and have results to them in < 24 hours after testing. The reason for the Virtual consultation is that not all patients need a PCR test. Some need to go straight to serology. Some can get an Antigen test (results <15 min, coming soon)."

Questions

Professor Bagley (Nursing) asked (in the clinical environment) if a person is wearing the appropriate PPE and providing care to a Covid positive patient would that be considered an exposure?

Vice Chancellor Stacy responded it would not be considered an exposure in a clinical setting. His opinion is that is the normal course of a workday. In the emergency medicine department, during the course of a shift, an employee will be exposed to any number of people who have Covid. The employee does not get put into isolation after that. The employee goes home and self-monitors for symptoms and returns to work.

F. Michael Van Scott, Interim Vice Chancellor for Research, Economic Development and Engagement (REDE)

Interim Vice Chancellor Van Scott said the goal in the summer for REDE was to allow faculty and students that needed to continue research or experiential learning to facilitate that for them. REDE formulated an extensive set of guidelines for researchers to follow to be able to safely perform activities. This included the students signing risk assumption and liability waivers. The waivers were intended to ensure the faculty, the mentors, and the students understood that the university was not fully operational and that the environment was not fully controlled, and that if one planned to pursue these critical activities, the risk is understood, and that the researcher took responsibility for those risks. Some people did not like the waivers, but it was effective. Researchers completed work all summer long and were engaged in experiential learning. As far as Vice Chancellor Van Scott knows, there has been one person who tested positive and that did not spread to any of their fellow researchers, so he counts that as a success.

In the fall, the university is back into a much more structured, academic environment. With more structure, the safety plans are in place, the protocols, and people understand the risk and how the institution plans to mitigate those risks. The research and experiential learning that happens in the classroom is covered by normal processes in the classroom. For experiential learning, REDE will rely more on affiliation agreements to ensure they have the safety protocols defined for sites. REDE will not go through an extensive review again like before.

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Q1: REDE has extensive guidelines for research and fieldwork in the Covid 19 pandemic. Do these guidelines apply to students and faculty who are engaged in what before the pandemic could have been considered regular activities in a course? When do you think that liability forms are appropriate?

A1: The goal was to facilitate experiential learning. The principles that were put in place were best practices. The specific guidelines are not what faculty and students follow for coursework—that is defined by the syllabus and the academic unit. The working group had representatives from across campus. They felt waivers were still important for experiential learning settings. Students in those settings will continue to sign those waivers. This is not necessarily the case for students involved in research. Any employee of the university will not be required to sign a waiver as of August 10. Students involved in research under a mentor will also not be required to complete waivers, as they will be overseen by a faculty mentor.

Q2: Before going to field work other universities are requiring a negative test for field work. Why is that not the case for ECU? When faculty members take students to field work, can the academic unit request use of CARE moneys so students get tested before going?

Fieldwork is diverse. REDE had a group look at fieldwork to produce guidance on it. No two field exercises are the same. In many cases, this is completed in isolation and actually in a safer environment. Widespread testing in order to complete field work did not seem to make sense then and Vice Chancellor Van Scott is not sure it continues to make sense now. The better thing to do is focus on the behaviors that make fieldwork safe. A field exercise where individuals cannot conduct the exercise without social distancing, avoiding physical contact and body fluids, would lead to a different discussion. One question would be why would that fieldwork be taking place at this point in time. If it is necessary, then should we do testing? He believes in that case we could consider it and probably should. He would suggest the program director make that case to their chair or to the dean that would come up to the provost for consideration. And how would that be funded—there is a lot of demand for CARES funds. It would have to be put into the pool with a look at the cost-benefit. If it is part of research, it would have to come from the research budget.

Questions

No one had questions for Interim Vice Chancellor Van Scott at this time.

G. Virginia Hardy, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Q1: What are ECU's plans for educating students and/or monitoring students' behavior off campus and in the community? What are ECU's plans to work together with Greenville to ensure students' safety, adherence to local ordinances, and enactment of student code related to Covid-19 for the greater good of university and community safety?

A1: Student behavior cannot really be controlled, but Student Affairs plans to do their very best to educate and reinforce good behaviors through an onslaught campaign. In the residence halls, Student Affairs is talking with students about what they can and cannot do while stressing compliance with social distancing and face coverings. Visitation is being reduced at the residence halls. There was a meeting yesterday with the Dean of Students, News Services, ECU PD, and Greenville PD in their public relations to talk about a game plan. A PSA will start going out this Friday to the students that will be shared more broadly with ECU constituents. The PSA will be focused on what the requirements are, how to comply, what the expectations are of ECU students in terms of social distancing, face coverings, and gatherings with encouragement against big gatherings, and how students may gather safely. Greenville PD and ECU PD will be increasing monitoring of various locations to ensure things are happening appropriately, not with a punitive focus but in order to

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attempt to nip some behaviors in the bud. Pirate Express will be eliminated. This form of transit normally runs from apartments to Uptown Greenville on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Students will be not be encouraged to go downtown. ECU is looking to have students sign a housing agreement when they enter into the quarantine housing that would say they would not have guests that go in and out of that complex. Student leaders will create videos for social media to model to their peers the importance of adhering to guidelines. Student affairs will meet with the advisors of Greek organizations. For those organizations, especially ones with houses, there will be discussion on the behavior expectations for those facilities.

Q2: Paying for tests out of pocket will be a burden to the majority of our students. We need to understand the process and we also need to know how ECU is protecting students. If a student needs a test and goes to the Student Health Center, what happens? If they are insured, what happens? Do we have uninsured students? What happens to them? If a student is insured and had one test, what happens if she needs another? Is she still covered? How much will they need to pay? What can we do to make sure that paying for getting tested is not a burden on students? Since Pitt County Health is doing tests for no charge to community at JH Rose, etc., can our students get tested there? Can testing costs for the uninsured be billed to NC Department of Health and Human Services?

A2: A while back, the UNC System required all students to have insurance. It can be done through the university, through family insurance, or independent insurance. The bulk of ECU students already have insurance. The testing for Covid-19 is covered through their insurance. Vice Chancellor Hardy then asked Director Wright to speak further on this matter. Wright confirmed that Student Health has the ability to file most insurances, and that is the current practice. All tests have been covered by the insurances. ECU has an option to use the state lab; the state lab is the mechanism behind how the Pitt County Health Department has been able to offer free testing. The turnaround time for test results from the state lab is five to seven days, and has been up to nine days at one point. ECU Student Health tries to use the Vidant lab as much as possible because the results return the next day. Students can use the state lab if they do not have insurance or a shared plan; some shared plans will not offer coverage. In those cases Student Health could use the state lab. ECU can also refer students to the Treasure Chest, where tests can be funded through that source, and results can come back quickly. Students can be tested more than once and have been. Examples of multiple tests may be needed for clearance to participate in a university activity or if they had multiple exposures to the virus. Insurance companies have not denied funding multiple tests.

Q3: Faculty have a closer relationship to students than official entities do. If a student in a face to face class mentions to a faculty member that they have tested positive for Covid-19 but they have not reported, what can be done? Report to a hotline, e-mail, ignore because of HIPAA? As stated above, nobody wants to create a police state, but these are questions that need to be answered.

A3: If a student reports to faculty they have had a positive test, Vice Chancellor Hardy encourages faculty to report these cases, or Student Affairs can report these cases. Anonymous reports can be sent to the Student Health email address at gotquestions@ecu.edu. This would not be a violation of HIPAA because the faculty member is sharing that information with Student Health as it was shared to the faculty member, self-disclosed by the student. Hardy encourages the faculty member to have that information reported. Of course, the student can also be encouraged to go to Student Health where they will receive good services.

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Questions

Professor Ticknor (Education) asked if now that we have students on campus if we have a count of students who would need to remain on campus if we were to go online.

Vice Chancellor Hardy said that so far students have only moved their belongings onto campus, but the actual move-in date is August 5. She does not know that number of students who would need to remain on campus once at ECU. She said some students may have internet issues. This past March, some students remained on campus after the majority left. For those who remained, some were from out of the country or out of the state. Some had elderly family members or family with underlying health issues in their permanent home, and some did not have a safe place to go. ECU will look at this from that same standpoint again if we were to go online.

Professor McKinnon (History) asked if students with online classes are still able to go to the library to get computers to work on classes from home?

Vice Chancellor Hardy said if we have to go to full remote instruction, she would hope we still have access to these resources to loan students computers. Provost Hayes said ECU has since ordered additional computer to serve students.

H. Jeff Popke, Electronic PAD Workgroup

Professor Popke (Geography, Planning and Environment) discussed the documents developed by the Electronic PAD Workgroup, which were [PAD Workflow](#), [PAD Instructions for TEAMS Folder Format and Naming Conventions – Promotion and Tenure](#), and [PAD Instructions for TEAMS Folder Format and Naming Conventions – Promotion only](#).

Feedback on these documents and process is welcome. Popke hopes to finalize this process in the next ten days. The sooner feedback is provided, the better. He shared that access to a scanner may be important. Chair Martínez stated that there is a high capacity scanner that OFE has that faculty are welcome to use.

Questions

Professor Pearce (Sociology) asked if there would still be print format books that would go to reviewers.

Professor Popke said that the reviewers already have this year's materials in hand. The item being looked at is how the PAD is assembled and how it is evaluated. When reappointment occurs in the spring, this would be something to think about. He mentioned there is also a file size limit in Teams. Popke mentioned he reached out to Dean Buddo about the electronic PAD in thinking that some of the faculty in his unit focus more on creative activity and might have evidence of musical compositions and clips from a stage play, as examples. Popke believes there would need to be a way to embed links to an outside site if the file size limit in a Teams space cannot be accommodated, so there will need to be some flexibility in how the PADs are assembled.

Professor Stokes (Allied Health Sciences) asked about the timeline for implementation and if people should prepare in hard copy or electronic.

Professor Popke replied that if a faculty member is under consideration this fall, they will not be required to complete a paper copy this fall, just an electronic copy.

Chair Martínez thanked Popke for his work on this project and other items despite the fact his term as Chair ended on July 1.

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Question Period

Professor Bauer (English) said that Provost Hayes had mentioned student enrollment and credit hours had increased, but units have not yet received permission to hire to meet demand, even at the graduate level. She said she understands ECU is losing some students because they are unable to enroll in some classes, and then asked if the UNC System hiring freeze was still in effect and would there be any hiring in the coming year to meet demonstrated demand.

Acting Provost Hayes replied the UNC System office shared a new statement a few weeks ago that stated the hiring freeze is still in full effect.

Professor Ticknor (Education) asked about the off-campus quarantine option and how many beds we have secured compared to how many residential students the university anticipates housing this fall. Vice Chancellor Hardy said we have 48 beds with an option to increase that amount as we need to do so related to the 5,300 students in resident halls this year.

Professor Su (Geography, Planning & Environment) asked about the capacity of testing at ECU and if all students and face-to-face faculty are tested.

Director Wright envisions no issues with testing. The most tests completed by Student Health in one day was 160 tests. Vice Chancellor Stacy believes ECU Physicians could complete 3,800 tests a day. If we get to that point of testing, ECU will likely not be open for business.

Professor Altman (Kinesiology) asked if Provost Hayes or Interim Chancellor Mitchelson can help our colleagues understand what we are seeing from other institutions in the system, and we keep relaying the message that the hiring freeze is system-wide, and yet our colleagues are seeing hiring going on at several institutions around the system, and also asked as our enrollment numbers are up, how does that impact the budget cuts that are anticipated in the following year?

Interim Chancellor Mitchelson said the expectation from the system is that hiring would be slowed. I suspect what ECU's HHP department has been seeing from other schools are ones that had substantial growth, such as App State and Wilmington. ECU's growth that is recorded today has no impact on the institution's current stream of money. The university is paid in arrears now, so growth will have an effect on the next fiscal year. ECU will see an adjustment associated with enrollment change, growth or decline, and ECU would see a legislative increase or cut. It is expected the state will have difficulties in the next fiscal year with budget and that our university should anticipate in the next fiscal year a budget cut. Whether ECU would have enrollment growth sufficient to offset that is doubtful. Any kind of enrollment growth funding would be helpful. Even if ECU receives enrollment growth funding, the institution would need to decide if we want to expand positions or increase salaries. ECU has really modest enrollment growth to report for fall 2020, and our university will not see that money until the following fiscal year. Hopefully, it will offset the expected legislative decrease budget cut that will probably come.

Professor Su (Geography, Planning & Environment) asked about face-to-face students and faculty being tested and what is being done about asymptomatic students, faculty, and staff.

Interim Chancellor Mitchelson said not everyone is being tested; test is only done with known symptoms. If all take precautions seriously with the mask, distance, and handwashing, ECU will beat this virus. Vice Chancellor Stacy mentioned two Covid-19 positive hairdressers in Missouri. They cut hair for almost 200 clients; all were masked, and the disease was not spread.

Professor Pearce (Sociology) asked if signage in classroom buildings will include Braille.

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Vice Chancellor Hardy said Student Affairs talked with the ADA Coordinator about this matter. There is not Braille on the signs, but there is a process in place where those individuals are given a tour by the ADA coordinator as to where the signage are and what is on the signage.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Submitted by,

Marlena Rose
Secretary of the Faculty
Health Sciences Library

Rachel Baker
Faculty Senate