



11/17/2020, 4:30 PM

Zoom

Senate Minutes

I. Roll Call

A. Call to Order at 4:32 PM

B. All Present

1. Not Present: Senator Rafiq, Senator Awan (4:34 PM)

II. Visitors & Guest Speakers

A. Wayne Magdziarz, CFO

1. He has been at the University for a very long time. This has been the most challenging time for all of us. No one could have predicted or planned for what we have gone through. There is no rule book for the time we are in. He hopes that when we all look back that we can say that we gave it our best shot for the University community. A Trustee had told him to remember that people will ask how Loyola did in treating its community. That stuck with him especially when the University has made decisions this past year. When this all started, JFRC and other international campuses were all closed down. They took a pause and figured out where they were. Many higher education institutions that immediately went to work to furlough staff, take out operating costs, and other things that were reactionary without knowing how long-term this would be. Dr. Rooney and her team made decisions based on the data and information they had. They also put together a multi-layered committee structure to deal with operational and financial issues for this fiscal year. These committees met anywhere around 3 days a week. There are no less than 100 Loyolans that are involved in this structure. They came out early on saying that their objective this year was to break even with the budget. They went to the Board with the strategy and they said yes. They did not take a move on cost reduction until they were sure on the data given and made sure to make those moves thoughtfully and strategically. These decisions were also made by the safety of our students, faculty, and staff. They wanted to preserve people/jobs as much as possible and make sure everything was communicated well.
2. With the working groups meeting multiple times a week since April, he has been given updates to a variety of folks across the university. There have also been virtual meetings across 15 schools and divisions as well as University Senate, Faculty Council, and Council of Deans. There has also been a faculty advisory group meeting bi-weekly with the President and Provost. There have been university-wide surveys on engagement on readiness to return to workplace, reduction initiatives under consideration, and student fall experience.
3. They made a decision to not make any reductions through Fiscal Year '20. They looked at revenues every week. They had three big decisions that they made: online platform only; suspend on-campus residential living; and increased testing, controls, and safety measures for the spring semester. The first two decisions were not taken lightly and had a significant impact on our revenue. They are learning from what other universities have done well and not done well. They have also done engagement with the community to get feedback as well. In the early part of June, they secured a \$100 million line of credit just in case. They didn't know in June/July what enrollments were going to look like. The University has a \$21 million/month payroll obligation to the faculty/staff. They wanted to make sure they didn't jeopardize the ability to pay them. We have not had to use that line and he does not think we will need to use it. As uncertain as Fall was, the upcoming Spring semester has many variables equally uncertain. Loyola received \$10 million through the Cares Act which came in the middle-late part of the summer. The Cares Act statutorily was divided into two \$5 million pots. The first \$5 million was to be distributed directly to students for costs that they incurred as a result of the disruption of the pandemic. It could not be used to pay their tuition or fees they were due their institutions. They were reimbursements for personal expenses that students incurred for leaving early, higher movers, or anything like that as a result of the early termination of the Spring semester. The first parameters of the Cares Act were released in June/July. It was adjusted by the Federal Government to include the Fall semester for students to be able to recover funding. They opened up another window of opportunity for disruptions caused by the Fall semester. By the end of next week, they will have distributed all of the money back to the students. The second \$5 million is directed for institutional dollars. Costs for the university that we are able to open and make sure we are safe. It has been spent on testing and

campus safety protocols. They did a three-phase reduction plan in July/August/September. The first phase took out budget flexibility, swept open faculty/staff positions, senior leadership compensation decreased, and there was a suspension of merit raises for calendar year '21 for faculty/staff. For the second phase the university dipped into the retirement contribution suspension fund which is a move many institutions have had to make. Our plan is to put that at the top of the list to restore as quickly as they can. They also took from select operating budgets like in travel, entertainment, and in contracting services till they knew they were bringing back students. Their third-phase involved limited and focused furloughs/layoffs of staff. These were limited to positions within Res Life or LUREC. They are in the process to bring them back.

4. They measured the enrollment with freshman, transfer students, second-year retention, and graduate/professional students. They ended up with 418 freshman less than budget which is a \$9 million revenue hit to operating budget. Transfer students were down by 50 students and the second-year retention had a \$4 million impact. Graduate student enrollment was actually up. It is not unusual in times of a softening economy graduate student enrollment actually increases. They had a \$4.5 million increase.
5. They also looked at the Freshman discount rate which is the amount of financial aid they award. They also set aside additional money in the Hardship funds recognizing that students and their families are going through tough economic times. They don't want anyone to leave Loyola due to financial reasons. They eliminated the Student Development Fee since it was not likely that there be an on-campus experience. A lot of things that fee goes to pay for, they suspended. It ended being a \$10 million revenue hit to the university. Then there was the decision to not have housing. They have 5000 beds and is around \$50 million. For the Spring, they have assumed for purposes for the '21 budget that the Spring Residence Life will look like Fall with having a limited number of students on campus. If they are able to bring back more students to live in the residence hall. All of the housing revenue will be wiped out in order to test and for campus safety protocols.
6. They did the last phase reductions in September. The President has committed that we will not do any more reductions. There was a \$90 million decline in anticipated revenue due to smaller freshman class, fewer returning students, increased graduate enrollment, and closure of residence halls. With the three phases, Phase I and II had reductions of \$44 million and Phase III had reductions of \$26 million.
7. They are hoping to bring back targeted residential community of approximately 1,400 students. They will be living in single-occupancy rooms and for the most part private baths. There will be more on-campus face-to-face and bi-modal courses. The spring breaks were adjusted in March, so it is now broken up into two smaller breaks. There will be increased testing and safety protocols across campuses and a slow return of some on campus activities if done safely. For the summer, if they are not able to bring back a critical number of students in the spring, there will hopefully be a widespread distribution of vaccines and more of an idea of what the campus will look like. They are looking to see what an on-campus mini-experience will look like especially for freshman. They are also looking at what the Fall budget will look like. They are modeling a 50% occupancy, larger portion of in-person/bi-modal classes, and a landscape that will depend on vaccine distribution. There are several key investment areas that need funding: advancement, graduate enrollment/marketing, anti-racism initiatives, faculty hires in growth program areas, and Pathways programs for Loyola graduates.

B. Questions

1. Senator Thilges asked if there are any plans to open LUREC in the Spring or to have summer classes there.
 - a. They are going more cautiously with LUREC since it is meant for groups. They are going to work very closely with a retired faculty member and Dean Tuckman to see what they can do. They want to make sure that LUREC plays an important part and resource for students.
2. Senator Awan asked what the University plan's for courses in the Summer is.
 - a. They are going to do as much face-to-face as they can safely. It is not just students, but they also need to make sure faculty feels safe. Faculty members have told us that they are anxious on coming back. One of the factors that they have to think of is the City of Chicago quarantine as well.
3. Senator Doyle asked that with on-campus activities, what would those on campus activities look like.
 - a. Student Development is working with this much more than he is but they don't want to bring back a significant number of students on campus and have nothing for them to do. They are a vibrant community that engages with one another.
 - b. Senator Doyle stated that their job in SGLC is to allocate money to student organizations for events. Their committee has been making decisions for this semester and next semester based on what they know, and they had decided not to fund any on-campus activities for next semester. They also have to make their decision on next Fall in March.
 - c. Dean Rodriguez stated that they have assessed whether or not we cannot have spring programming. The limited programming that they will have will be put together by SAGA, DOP, and Student Life. Student groups will not be able to have any events just for safety reasons.
4. Senator Palmer asked that with Residence Life, there is currently a major rise in cases and complications with city ordinance so why is there is a decision to reopen the residence halls now.

- a. Finances had nothing to do with it. With opening in the Spring, it is more a retention mechanism. Even if we bring back 1,400 students, there will still be a net 0 due to testing and safety procedures that will have to be put in place. We know more today than we did in the fall. Back in June/July/August, the thinking was that schools should not open its doors to thousands of students. That thinking has now shifted to where if schools are able to do proper testing and keep students within the University bubble, that is in many cases safer than having students all at home and traveling. There has been a change in mindset to what university community living in a pandemic looks like. There have been some missteps, but they have been able to have an on-campus community unscathed for the past 30-60 days. One thing they have learned, is that the schools that have been most successful have students' police themselves. Students have to take it upon themselves to wear masks, not go to parties, and to stay safe.
5. VP Flores asked about to what extent student employment is involved with bringing staff back.
 - a. That is going to follow to what degree we can be open in the Spring. They have had conversation of reinstating student employment which is as high of a priority as bringing staff back. In some cases, they have staff for personal reasons are in a high risk group who don't want to come back and rather works from home. If there is a division where all staff workers are working remotely, it would be difficult to bring those student workers back as well.
6. Senator Bronec stated that they passed a piece of legislation called *Separate from Food Providers and the Prison Industrial Complex* and asked what the process was for decisions are made specifically with the contract with Aramark.
 - a. The Aramark agreement they have currently was put in place 10 years ago and was a 20 year contract. It does have cancellation privileges. Since he has been here there have been 3 different food providers and they all have their faults. The arena of food providers for higher education is fairly small. There are only three or four that can serve a University of our size. It is not standard to have a contract for that long. We have contracts with our vendors that are anywhere from 2-5 years. When we most recently engaged with Aramark, we were also in the process of campus transformation. The decision at the time was to engage a provider for the long haul. He has had conversations with several student groups already. He is happy to broker a meeting, they are anxious to get in front of a representative group of students to talk about what Aramark has done to get in front of this.
7. Senator Harrison asked about plans pertaining the safety of employees whose jobs and pensions are not as safe and that they have to interact with students who may not be safe either.
 - a. It is not just about if a staff member is comfortable in coming back. It is also how they get the University. If they normally ride the L, and if they don't feel safe doing so how to possibly work with that. They will not force any staff member to come to campus just because we are bringing back students. They have a lot of staff who are health-compromised or in an older demographic who do not feel that they are coming back to their best. It is highly likely that we will have staff that will not feel comfortable coming back till calendar year '22. There are plenty of people who do not feel safe leaving their house. We will be bringing back some of our furloughed staff in the Spring semester to work in areas of testing. We will have to be flexible as much as the staff will have to be flexible.
8. Senator Palmer asked regarding academic and course offerings, but there seems to be a decrease in the diversity of course offerings.
 - a. That is the first time he has heard that concern. He will reach out to the Provost after the call. We have not reduced faculty. Please send him an email after this meeting or tomorrow who can give a better answer.
9. Senator Doyle stated that Loyola sits between two populous neighborhoods and bringing back students, these students are in the age group that most likely spreads COVID. She asked how Loyola is protecting our community members especially with bringing students back into the community
 - a. He has worried about this as well since a lot of our students live in those neighborhoods. Those situations are the nucleus for what starts outbreaks and spreads throughout the community. They have to make absolutely sure that many of our students that come back are educated on what they do and what they shouldn't do. We all have an obligation as a community to do the right thing. They will not keep all students locked down. They have to be smart about this. It can be done, and outbreaks can be controlled without causing large disruptions.
10. Senator Pittman asked that the self-policing isn't working, and students aren't making morally correct decisions, is there a back-up plan.
 - a. Other Universities have taken pretty hard lines with students who have not followed protocols and procedures. They have taken hard disciplinary lines with students. We have to get there as a community. There will be students who will push the boundary. Those will be the causes of focused and controlled outbreaks. If we cannot come together as a community in the Spring, it will not last long. It is entirely possible that we will not have students come live with us till March. We have to be flexible and be committed to this.

- b. Senator Pittman stated that her concern was more down the road when students become tired of not being social is where students become concerned of a lack of punishment.
 - c. Dean Rodriguez stated that at the beginning of the fall semester, all students had to go through a COVID module and signing a commitment. That same commitment will be required in the spring term. Keep in mind that COVID standards are policy and part of community standards. We also have a public facing reporting mechanism as well. Advisor Manzano and himself work with Campus Safety and the community. This past Halloween weekend, they spend time in the community and worked with community members and responded to reports.
 - d. Senator Bronec stated that as a student within AGLC we have three students that sit within the constituency engagement of the COVID response group. If you have continued questions that you would like to bring, please let ACO Esparza, AJ Almanza, and herself know.
 - 11. Senator Nanda stated that she wanted to clarify that we have signed the community standards and asked how students will be policed and how students will be held accountable.
 - a. Dean Rodriguez stated that if students are found in violation of COVID protocols, they will be held responsible and accountable up to and leading to removal from the University. There are a number of factors in play. OSCCR will follow up on all reports. Every report will be taken seriously, and we will follow up.
 - b. President Drescher stated that there are a number of members here that are all a part of the Student Advisory Group on how we shift that culture and effectively communicate with the student body.
 - c. Senator Nanda asked if there are any other avenues of accountability and where is the crossover with student privacy rights.
 - d. Dean Rodriguez stated that any member of the Loyola on campus community can file reports if they see something. The staff that works for Director Colins are trained to respond and report if they see something. Once that information comes into OSCCR, that information is confidential via FERPA.
- III. Approval of the Minutes
- A. No Amendments Made
 - B. Minutes are approved at 6:06 PM.
- IV. Advisors' and Chaplain's Reports
- A. Chaplain (**Fr. Michael Christiana**)
 - 1. None at this time.
 - B. Advisor (**Dean Manzano/Rodriguez**)
 - 1. Advisor Manzano stated that the University is hosting a four-part webinar about the Spring semester. The first one is on Sunday at 6:00 PM. He is leaving his post as Associate Dean of Students and Advisor of SGLC. Dean Rodriguez has received approval to post the position and recruit to replace me. You will have a new advisor at some point. Until then, Dean Rodriguez will step in as advisor.
- V. Unfinished Business
- A. None at this time.
- VI. New Business & Discussion
- A. None at this time.
- VII. Internal Reports
- A. Legislative Branch
 - 1. Standing Committees
 - a. Academic Affairs (**Senator Palmer**)
 - i. Senator Palmer stated that everything is in the report. They will continue to work on the idea of engaging different academic groups on campus such as HAS to get grounding for new initiatives.
 - b. Allocations (**Senator Doyle**)
 - i. Senator Doyle stated that they had hearing this past weekend. They had 21 requests and funded about \$14,000. If you have any questions, please let them know.
 - c. Facilities & Transportation (**Senator Khan**)
 - i. Senator Khan stated that everything is in the report. Tomorrow morning the sustainability initiatives group will be meeting. Other than that, they will be pushing the survey.
 - d. Justice (**Senator Bronec**)
 - i. Senator Bronec stated that they are winding down for the semester and figuring out what their term goals are. If you would like to get involved with the Aramark initiative, please let her know.
 - e. Residents, Commuters, & Dining (**Senator Caputo**)
 - i. Senator Caputo stated everything is in the report. Please keep pushing the survey.
 - f. Safety & Wellness (**Senator Rafiq**)
 - i. Senator Harrison stated everything is in the report. Please keep pushing the survey.
 - 2. Special Committee
 - a. Governance Committee (**Senator Kwak**)

- i. Senator Kwak stated Governance met for the first time Sunday. They have set a Wednesday meeting time for the rest of the semester. If anyone has any concerns or ideas on how to amend the Articles of Governance, please let them know.
- B. Judicial Branch (**Chief Justice Mooney**)
 - 1. CJ Mooney stated that they have office hours tomorrow and area available by appointment. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.
- C. Executive Branch
 - 1. President Drescher & Vice President Flores
 - a. VP Flores stated that Illinois statewide is in Phase III starting on Friday. Please represent SGLC well. 1 in 15 Chicagoans has the virus right now. Please be smart, please be safe.
 - b. President Drescher stated that there are various avenues you have to various SGLC members and groups regarding COVID precautions. There is also the Student Advisory Group that is meant for real-time quick feedback that goes to President Rooney, the Provost, Executive Vice Provost, and Dr. Rooney's Chief of Staff. The conversations they have been having have been about the Spring semester. It has been about how do we shift that mindset and what consequences could we implement while still taking consideration of privacy as well. Administrators are looking for ways to encourage the culture shift. There has to be a number of nuanced ways to incorporate that. Please think critically about your experiences right now. Send along any questions you have to the webinars or the Student Advisory Group. They take that feedback seriously. When they talk about the communication of the university, they talk about the clarity. It also matters who it comes from. With the webinars coming up, a big ask is student involvement. She will be involved with the first one on Sunday which is the overview of the vision of the Spring Semester. They encourage student involvement that is not overly scripted. We want it to be an honest experience.
 - c. VP Flores stated that the survey closes on Friday. Please push the survey to your classmate and your friends. There are two blurbs that Communications put together to email to your professor or to put in your Zoom chat. Be that person in your class that is so proud of SGLC that can explain the importance of the survey.
 - i. President Drescher stated that they gathered over 900 emails for professors out in a mass email to push the survey.
 - d. President Drescher stated that if there is a Senator who has not yet gotten the chance to write legislation yet, VP Flores and herself have been doing a lot of verbal advocacy in different spaces with administrators on what the student representative looks like on the Board of Trustees. It looks to be a lot of advocacy has received verbal affirmations. They would love the opportunity for a Senator to write legislation on this. This way they can also formally propose it as well.
 - e. VP Flores stated that they have several upcoming administrative meetings. On Thursday they will be meeting with Dr. Rooney. They hope to bring updates to the organization regarding the CPD partnership. The week after Thanksgiving, they will be meeting with the Provost.
 - 2. CoS Dervishi stated our final community building night is Thursday at 7:00 PM and will now be a PowerPoint night. She included a couple examples in her report as well. With the Professional Contact Miro, she does not have the adequate responses on the form to show our connections with administration. The link to the miro is also in her report. She is also updating the archive and wants to make sure that it works as a living resource. Please share any information any documents that supplemented passing that legislation. If you do have any documentation that may help future SGLC members, please share it with her. Also, they have had a good number of emails come through for engagement requirement but has not seen any follow-up. Please do so and fill out the excel sheet as well.
 - 3. Speaker O'Brien
 - a. Please continue pushing the survey. Encourage your friends and encourage your classmates.
 - b. If you have questions about COVID enforcement and precautions, please direct that to President Drescher and VP Flores.
 - c. We do expect to see your cameras on, so we know that you are paying attention and engaged with Senate. If you have an issue with that ask, please feel free to talk to me privately and we can talk about your situation.

VIII. Adjourn

- A. Meeting adjourned at 6:36 PM