

School of Mathematical & Statistical Sciences
Faculty meeting – April 2, 2020 (via Zoom)
76 attendees

Director Al Boggess thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

- 1) **Summer teaching:** Summer A and C sessions will be taught entirely online. While a decision has not yet been made, it is reasonable to assume that B session may also be taught online. We also expect an increase in summer B enrollments.
- 2) **Spring exams/assignments:** Understanding that it will mean extra work for the faculty, Al encouraged faculty to be as flexible as possible with deadlines and makeup exams for students who are heavily impacted by coronavirus. Certainly, some students will try to game the system, but faculty are encouraged to use their best judgment and be as flexible as reasonably possible.
- 3) **Grades:** SoMSS usually uses the standard letter grade system. ASU administration has decided that classes will not be converted en masse to pass/fail. However, Y grades can be used when requested by students and approved by the instructor. A Y grade is a passing grade with a C or better and has no effect on the student's GPA. Before granting a Y grade, faculty should make sure the student has consulted their academic advisor and confirmed that a Y grade will not impact downstream class prerequisites. Students must request this change in grading before grades are posted. In the discussion that followed, a few items were noted:
 - a. Actual letter grades are preferable for students who plan to continue their studies with subsequent degrees. Y grades can be detrimental.
 - b. Medical/compassionate withdrawals may also be appropriate in some cases where student performance has been particularly impacted by the epidemic
 - c. 492 and 493 cannot use Y grades. The appropriate grade for work in progress is a Z.
- 4) **Incomplete Grades.** Students in SoMSS classes may ask instructors for a grade of Incomplete, which allows students to make up any missed work over the next year in an agreement with an instructor. In previous semesters, our expectation in SoMMS is that incomplete grades are only granted for students who have a minor amount of work remaining (say the final exam and/or the last semester exam). Due to the Coronavirus epidemic, the Provost is encouraging us to relax this standard. In particular, if the student disappeared after the transition to on-line instruction and is now requesting an incomplete, you are permitted to grant this request if the student was doing otherwise acceptable work prior to the transition to online

A guide to these grading updates will be posted soon Joe Davis on the SoMSS website (in addition to the minutes, recording, and transcript of this meeting). Faculty with questions are encouraged to reach out to SoMSS administration. We will also continue to handle academic dishonesty cases as we have in the past and will try to handle as many cases in-house as possible.
- 5) **Exam proctoring:** ASU has not yet identified a lockdown browser that will work with Zoom. (Respondus doesn't work with Zoom.) Al encouraged the faculty to continue using the discussion board to share experiences and best practices. Several faculty shared examples of giving exams in Zoom, which has worked fairly well overall. Some students may be experiencing

difficulty with internet connectivity (especially those who have left the US), resulting in the inability to take proctored exams. When these difficulties are expected to continue, a grade of I (Incomplete) may be appropriate for students who were previously doing well, whereas a compassionate withdrawal may be appropriate for those who had been struggling. **Joe Davis will look into how common exams are going to be handled in this new digital environment.** Faculty can request additional IAs to help with exam proctoring. Al reminded everyone that we are able to change syllabi mid-class during this unusual time. Fabio suggested adding language that exams that are not proctored will not count. Any changes to syllabi should be sent to the students in writing before the exam occurs.

- 6) **Hiring:** Hiring is ongoing. All seven of our lecturer positions were just accepted. Offers are out or in negotiations on the joint SoMSS/SESE position and the senior stats position. Our junior stats, math ed and postdoc positions have been filled. An offer has been made to the top director candidate, but she needs more time to make a decision given the current global situation. Al is hopeful we will get answers on the remaining offers in the next few weeks.
- 7) **Senate executive meeting:** At the most recent Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting, the question on whether fall section would need to be held virtually was raised. If so, the financial impact to ASU would be substantial. Al did not have any updates, but shared that all faculty hires where offers had not yet been sent required provost re-approval. Future enrollment and changes in modality are uncertain, and there may be a significant shift from in-person to online enrollments.
- 8) **Open forum/questions:** Joe Davis has not heard any discussion of extending withdrawal dates. When asked what other universities are doing, Al commented that colleagues have reached out to him for guidance since ASU has more online experience than other institutions. Asking students to use a lockdown browser on their phone while simultaneously using a laptop webcam with Zoom for exams. Discussion will continue on the discussion board.

Faculty meeting recording: <https://asu.zoom.us/rec/share/2N5kd6-t6GxObqOV0hH2AoEwO5vUX6a82iAWqPNemhnyNjYamOICqrntzpKoqd6T?startTime=1585860164000>

Faculty meeting audio transcript:
https://asu.zoom.us/rec/download/tJJ5fu6upj43T9WQswSDB_d5W43sJ66sgXBLrqJYnU29BnYCZ1TyNbpHNLCZZ0gZvxofQ_uY3J0xPMeU