

Minutes
Faculty Senate Meeting

***** The complete recording for this meeting can be found at <http://www.american.edu/facultysenate/agendas-minutes.cfm> November 2, 2016**

Present: Professors: Todd Eisenstadt, Larry Engel, Andrea Pearson, Karen Baehler, David Banks, Rachel Borchardt, Kyle Brannon, Stefano Costanzi, Tim Doud, John Douglass, Chris Edelson, Bryan Fantie, Maria Gomez, John Heywood, Olivia Ivey, Kelly Joyner, Ken Knight, Iris Krasnow, Emily Lindsay, Jun Lu, Cathy Schaeff, Steve Silvia, Kate Wilson, Zehra Peynircoioglu, Shalini Venturelli, Provost Scott Bass, DAA MaryClark.

Professor Eisenstadt welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Chair's Report – Todd Eisenstadt

Minutes Approval for October 5, 2016

Professor Eisenstadt asked the Senate for approval of the October 5, 2016 minutes. The minutes where discussed and two typo's were corrected. The Senate **VOTED** and the minutes where approved 21-0-0.

Emeriti Involvement – Professor Eisenstadt stated that the Fall Emeriti luncheon was a great success, however the attendance of Emeriti faculty has been very low. He asked the Senate for ideas of ways to engage the Emeriti and stated that the continuance of these Senate hosted lunches has been suspended until a more robust attendance of Emeriti could be received.

Provost's Report - Scott Bass

Provost Bass stated that the recent retreat on the Eastern Shore was a success. He thank DAA Mary L. Clark and Dean Barbara Romzek who where co-chairs and the rest of the planning staff. He also stated that this year members of the staff where invited and it really made for an all inclusive event.

Provost Bass informed the Senate that results are in from the National Survey of Student Engagement (NESE) which is administered to first year and senior students. The overall score is good in comparison to other peer institutions but there are two areas that are of concern. Under campus environment the two areas are, “Quality of Interactions” and “Supportive Environment.” are areas the institution did not do well in. Provost Bass went over in some detail examples in these areas and closed by stating that RiSE will be a group that will hopefully addressing these findings. RiSE will be addressing many of these issues addressed in the NESE report and will be a continuing initiative in making the student experience a better one.

AU Core Update – Jessica Waters & Andrea Brenner

VPUG Waters started by giving an overview of the AU core. She touched on AUx1 and AUx2. Currently both courses are running 4 pilot sections. Complex Problems course is also currently piloting 8 sections. Habits of Mind area will begin in 2017-2018 and will be offered within the major. Assessment for these classes will be ongoing. Initial assessments are mostly positive but there are some concerns.

VPUG Waters expressed that continued efforts have been made to involve the AU community in the development of AU Core. Three information sessions have been held for all faculty for Complex Problems courses. 75 courses have been received and more will be coming. A additional 5 focus groups were held and were open to all faculty. Results from these will eventually be sent out to all faculty for review. VPUG Waters opened the floor for questions.

Professor & Director of the AUx program Andrea Brenner stated that she began teaching the transition course, *Student Development Theory*, to determine the need for this type of course at AU. Professor Brenner gave a short overview of the development of the AUx courses and informed the Senators of the interaction of campus partners which some examples included, College Writing, the Counseling Center, Housing and Dining, Academic Access Center, Career Center, Athletics Department and the International Excelerator Program. This class is held online and meets once a week.

Professor Brenner continued to go over examples of the various pilot courses referencing various syllabi and giving an overview of course content and objectives. On completion of Professor Brenner's report a short video from the class was shown.

Faculty Involvement in AU Development Campaign – Courtney Surls

Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations Courtney Surls thanked the Senate for the invitation to speak. VP Surls gave an overview of her development experience and about the upcoming campaign she will be working on for AU. Her presentation was focused on strategies and planning that AU will be using to establish the new campaign. VP Surls stated that her hopes for this presentation to the Senate was to begin early involving key stakeholders in the development of the new campaign by providing them with information to give the knowledge to make a new campaign happen.

Budget Resolution on Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) – Shalini Venturelli

Professor Venturelli stated that she worked with several of her colleagues in SIS to request that during the current budget a resolution be brought to the BOT would consider implementing a COLA at AU. Professor Venturelli stated that salaries are going down in "real time." The Senate discussed the resolution and decided to table the resolution. The Senate **VOTED** and it was passed 18-0-3.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.