

Minutes
Faculty Senate Meeting
February 1, 2017

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

Present: Professors: Todd Eisenstadt, Andrea Pearson, Larry Engel, Karen Baehler, David Banks, Rachel Borchardt, Kyle Brannon, Tim Doud, John Douglass, Chris Edelson, Bryan Fanite, Maria Gomez, John Haywood, Olivia Ivey, Kelly Joyner, Ken Knight, Iris Krasnow, Emily Lindsay, Jun Lu, Cathy Schaeff, Steve Silvia, Kate Wilson, Zehra Peynircioglu, Shalini Venturelli, Provost Scott A. Bass and DAA Mary L. Clark.

Chair's Report – Todd Eisenstadt

Minutes Approval, December 7, 2016 - Professor Eisenstadt opened the floor for discussion of the December 7, 2016 minutes. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved 23-0-0 in favor.

Upcoming Vice Chair Elections – Professor Eisenstadt stated that the elections for the Vice Chair position will be held at the March Senate meeting. A list of senators from the past five years was distributed for review and asked that all take a look at this list and help to recruit possible candidates. Nominations need to be sent to the Senate in two weeks.

Grade Inflation Committee (GIC) Membership – Professor Eisenstadt notifies that Senate that a new GIC has will be forming and membership is needed. Currently, Professor Bryan Fanite has offered to chair the committee and professor Brannon has agreed to return as a member for the new committee. More members are needed and it was requested that by the next senate meeting a new committee will be announced.

Term Faculty Standing Committee (TFSC) Membership – Professor Eisenstadt stated that within the Term Faculty Faculty Manual Committee report it has been requested to form a Term Faculty standing committee to address additional concerns that have been presented. The current committee has met its charge from over a year ago and a new membership is needed to follow through.

Professor Pearson informed the Senate that two town halls are being planned and will be held on Feb 14 & 16 with their location to be determined. A formal announcement with this information will be sent out to all faculty when finalized. She further stated that a confidential platform will be set up to allow for questions and or concerns to be sent which she will address at the town hall meetings. There has also been concerned expressed that the revised Faculty Manual changes review needs to slow down so that more faculty can review the documents fully.

Teach-In Update – Professor Eisenstadt stated that the Teach-In was a great success. It was well attended by faculty, staff and students. He thanked the Senate for pushing the event forward and does hope that further events of this kind will follow.

Codifying Faculty Participation in the Presidential Search – Professor Eisenstadt stated that the presidential search has been completed and that further work on creating a process for faculty involvement should be out in place for future searches. He had spoken to the board and this is in the works.

AU Abroad Advisory Committee Adding UCC Member – Sarah Dumont Director of AU abroad approached the Senate Executive Committee requesting a more formal role in the curriculum review process for the 70% of students that study abroad. After discussion it was agreed that the Chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum will be working with the AU Abroad Advisory Committee as representation from the Senate.

Budget Update – Librarian Ivey stated that there is one official meeting left next week for the University Budget Committee to finalize their report to the board. The resolutions and recommendations provided from the Senate are being reviewed.

Provost's Report – Scott Bass

Provost Bass stated that considerable disturbing issues with world events have the campus unsettled and will keep the administration focused on how to handle them with students as well as the entire AU community. He stated that this will be a priority throughout the term. He also gave an update on the following:

- a) After the events and news that had taken place on campus in the fall, there was concern on the results of the application process, but even with a slight down turn we still have a good application pool. The class is very strong. GPA's and SAT scores are up. First generation and all minority categories have increased. California is now the second largest feeder which does mean that conversion is a much bigger challenge. Special programs, IE: Fredrick Douglass, the Honors Program and 3 year degrees are all doing very well.
- b) AU 2030, which houses priority areas for the future. Ideas will continue to be reviewed and move to add faculty lines to implement them.
- c) Five year major reviews of deans are currently underway. Jon Tubman's review is in process and Dean Goldgier's has been completed.
- d) The Anne Farren conference was a success with about 460 attendees.
- e) Provost Bass stated that the attendance at the meeting pleased him as a very historical vote by the Senate will take place for the new AU Core program.

Resolution Welcoming AU's Next President and Commending President Kerwin – Larry Engel

Faculty Senate Resolution Welcoming AU's Incoming President, The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell, and Thanking Current President Neil Kerwin for his Leadership

The Faculty Senate welcomed with the following resolution AU's incoming president, The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell, and thanked current president Neil Kerwin for his leadership:

The Faculty Senate enthusiastically welcomes The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell and resolves to offer her our full cooperation as she takes on the job of leading the university over the years ahead.

Further, the Faculty Senate acknowledges the tremendous leadership of Dr. Neil Kerwin, to whom we are very grateful. It also takes comfort in knowing that his strong commitment to American University will continue.

The Faculty Senate reiterates that although our next president will face challenges – within the context of AU’s resounding overall success – that The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell is the person for the job. On behalf of the faculty, the Faculty Senate pledges our full effort in working closely with Ms. Mathews Burwell and in helping her continue to move American University forward.

The Senate **VOTED** and the resolution was passed unanimously 24-0-0.

AU Faculty Senate Resolution Opposing US Government Executive Order of January 27 Related to Travel Restrictions to and from Several Countries. - Todd Eisenstadt

American University’s faculty seek to promote the free movement of ideas and people around the world. We share this mission with most U.S. universities and hence condemn the U.S. president’s executive order issued on January 27 that sought, in part, to bar individuals from targeted nations from entering the U.S. and further restrict entry of refugees to the U.S., but has had other far reaching adverse effects.

We appreciate the efforts by American University’s administration to defend and support our community members affected by the executive order, and to learn how we can continue – despite the setbacks the federal government seeks to pose to our academic community and all others – to promote cultural exchange and understanding, as well as the production of “deep knowledge” through research and scholarship by the world’s best and brightest, bar none.

The Faculty Senate of American University stands resolutely in opposition to the executive order and pledges to do whatever it can to preserve the emphasis on celebrating the diversity of our community, the invaluable virtues of globalization and internationalization, and the humane and dignified treatment of refugees and immigrants of all faiths and beliefs at American University, and at universities throughout the U.S. We ask the administration of American University to continue its vigilance and advocacy for students, faculty, staff, and colleagues abroad who are affected by the executive order, and that it continue to join with us in publicly opposing the adverse impacts of the U.S. president’s executive order.

The Senate **VOTED** and the resolution was passed unanimously 24-0-0.

AU Core Proposal, Debate and Move to Vote – Jessica Waters & Cindy Bair Van Dam

Professor Eisenstadt stated that after lengthy and full review of the AU community, the new AU Core proposal will be presented today and is seeking to move to a vote for approval. This vote needs to happen today to insure it will make the catalog and planning to begin in the fall of 2017.

VPUG Waters thanked Dean Peter Starr, Professor Lyn Stalling and Professor Cindy Bair Van Dam who took the lead and are the architects of this curriculum and this project and it would not be

where it is today without their tremendous work. She also stated that what the committee is seeking today a sense from the faculty and a vote from the Senate to move forward with the core principles of AU Core. Full rollout will not be until AY 2021-2022 which leaves several years to work through details. Adjustments will need to be as we see how this impacts students and faculty. VP Waters also stated that it is the intent for this program to offer the best undergraduate experience possible at AU. The design of the core is to meet students where they are allowing students for the first time to address problems that don't have answers. This helps them look at interdisciplinary issues. We will continue to return to the Senate with updates regularly on the progress of the AU Core.

Professor Bair Van Dam gave an over view of the AU Core. She went into details on the courses and the content as well as the various paths that students can take them. Additionally, she went over the requests as a result of faculty feedback and pilot assessments.

VPUG went over in more details from the pilot feedback. Professor Bair Van Dam went over the process of the program rollout. She stated that this will allow for a process to be managed and faculty participation will be extensive. There will still be communication with the community and via the Faculty Senate.

Professor Eisenstadt opened the floor for questions. Further discussion was had and many thanks was given to the developing committee members.

The Senate **VOTED** and the AU Core was passed unanimously 22-0-0

Supplemental Instruction/Tutoring Structure – Peter Starr, Nancy Davenport & Marianne Thompson

Dean Starr stated that academic support is all over the map. It was brought to the attention of many that several of the support groups did not report to one place or operate under that same process. There many sections that do need support, but currently do not have supplemental instruction. Dean Starr stated that this is a significant problem. The idea proposed was to move the entire Academic Support and Access Center operation under Academic Affairs keeping the strong diversity component from campus life. Money has been requested from the Provost to provide more sections of supplemental instruction and one staff member. This will mean more money in the student's pockets. Additionally, this would fall under the umbrella of the RiSE program. The ultimate plan will be a one stop scheduling APP for making appointments for all services in one place and making the second and third floors of MGC the Academic and Support Center so it is centrally located.

Provost Bass reminded that this is a proposal and that this is a budget concern. The budget review is in process and must also be approved by the Board of Trustees.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

