

Minutes
Faculty Senate Meeting
February 10, 2016

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

Present: Professors: Larry Engel, Todd Eisenstadt, Lacey Wootton, Karen Baehler, Kyle Brannon, Rachel Borchardt, Chris Edelson, Maria Gomez, Olivia Ivey, Kelly Joyner, Billie Jo Kaufman, Iris Krasnow, Gwanhoo Lee, Jun Lu, Mary Mintz, John Nolan, Arturo Porzecanski, Andrea Pearson, Steve Silvia, Chris Simpson, Kate Wilson, Brian Yates, Provost Scott Bass, DAA Mary L. Clark.

Professor Engel called the meeting to order at 2:33 PM.

Chair's Report – Larry Engel

January 13, 2016 Minutes Approval – Professor Engel opened the floor for discussion and approval of the January 13, 2016 minutes. The Senate **VOTED** and the minutes were approved 20-0-1.

Spring Emeriti Luncheon Speaker – Professor Engel informed the Senate that Professor Terry Davidson will be the guest speaker for the Spring Emeriti Luncheon on March 22, 2016.

Diversity and Inclusion Working group – Professor Engel stated that there had been several recommendations from senators for membership. The group so far includes Angie Chuang, SOC, Derrick Jefferson, University Library, Lily Wong, CAS, Noemi Enchautegui-de-Jesus, CAS, Keith Leonard, CAS, and Fanta Aw, Assistant VP of Campus Life. Fanta Aw and Mary Clark will serve as advisors. An invitation was extended to Tiffany Speaks, Senior Director for the Center for Diversity and Inclusion, to also act as an advisor, and a final confirmation was expected from Student Council with two students to participate.

Professor Engel stated that he had received an email from the University Registrar Doug McKenna that began opening discussion on a replacement name for the SET's. Input on Teaching by Students (ITS) has been suggested and was agreed by the senators to be a better option.

Professor Engel stated that the OUR email also included discussion about a pilot using the new questions that were approved by the Senate over the summer of 2016. However, concern was expressed that the audience during the summer is different and it would be better to change the pilot to the fall of 2016 rolling out the new questions in the fall of 2017.

Provost's Report – Scott Bass

- AU has been reclassified by the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education from the lowest tier, "Doctoral Research University" to the middle tier, "Doctoral: Higher Research Activity." This is a significant milestone and something to be proud of.

- The Washington College of Law ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held , February 12, 2016 and is expected to have a large turnout of 2000 people.
- The Dean of the School of Education search is still underway and the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies search had a delay due to personal reasons for one candidate but the search will resume in the next few weeks. WCL & KSB are also still interviewing.
- The early stages of planning for the Maryland Eastern Shore Faculty Retreat has begun. Because the theme for the retreat will revolve around student support, the invitation to this event will be extended to staff. DAA Mary L. Clark and Dean Barbara Romzek are the co-chairs. The event will be in October, 2016.
- Great appreciation was expressed for the involvement and willingness to participate by the Faculty Senate in some sensitive and difficult discussions on race. The president is also is aware and also grateful.
- The RiSE project has completed the assessment phase and is now moving into the next stage on how to support the AU students' needs and to involve all members of the institution to make it a more inclusive community.
- Enrollment numbers are outstanding at the undergraduate level. The university has received 19,208 applications for undergraduates. Early decision is up over 100 applications from last year. This is going to make it a difficult decision process but is a great accomplishment.

New Position in DAA's Office -DAA Mary L. Clark

Dean Clark stated that she is looking to establish a new position in her office titled "Associate Dean for Academic Affairs." This person will be specifically focused on working on term faculty initiatives such as satisfaction, equity and compensation. This would be a part-time position for a current multi-year contract term faculty member. Further information will be sent out to the community soon.

Jim McCabe Resolution – Larry Engel and Todd Eisenstadt

Professor Engel stated that based on the discussion at the last Senate meeting, a resolution was drafted and is being brought back to the floor for discussion and approval. Professor Engel read the motion as follows:

"The arrest of former AU staff member Jim McCabe while pamphleting in October 2015 at the Terrace Dining Room, and his presentation in January 2016 before the Senate, brought attention to adverse working conditions faced by Aramark's contract workers in housing and dining facilities. The Social Responsibility Project team is reviewing these issues. The Faculty Senate would like to be updated on contract discussions and negotiations between these workers' union, Aramark, and the university, and we support the workers' rights to more reasonable

wages, benefits, and working conditions. We also would ask the university to consider offering AU scholarships or tuition remission for dependents of contract workers.”

Lengthy discussion on content and wording of the presented resolution was had by the senators to tighten the draft for a vote. The Senate **VOTED** based on the amendments and the resolution was passed 23-0-0.

Students Carlos Vero, Martin Maldonado and Jake Schmitt thanked the Senate for passing the amended resolution and stated that they would like for AU to make sure that these workers are treated fairly and with respect. It should be AU's responsibility to be sure that the values and rules of AU are implemented in the contracts. Carlos provided the Senate with a handout of two resolutions from the Residence Hall Association for the record. Many other student visitors attended the meeting to show their support.

Anna Evans, an Aramark Worker, stated to the Senate that she had come from her country where she was a public defender. She asked if this body could find a way to help her attend classes here to further her career because currently the tuition is too expensive for her.

Senate Vice Chair Elections – Larry Engel

Professor Engel stated that the handout provided is a list of eligible faculty who have served on the Senate in the past five years. The timeline is tight and the following dates were provided:

- February 17, 2016, nominees
- February 20, 2016, short statement of interest
- March 2, 2016, election at the Senate meeting

Professor Chris Simpson addressed the issue of lack of minority representation. Discussion was had that encouraging minority colleagues to run for this body would be the best way to change this issue.

Senate By-Law Changes – Lacey Wootton

Professor Wootton began discussion on the following changes to the by-laws:

- **Article II, Membership** – Changing language to reflect practice to say, “The university faculty shall elect, annually, in the spring, **senators to fill the vacancies** in...”
- **IX. A. Executive Committee, Paragraph one** – Change to reflect standard practice to include, “**Nominations may also be submitted from the floor of the Senate.**”
- **Paragraph 3** – Current language is not practiced so the change would be to have the Executive Committee meet with university administrators **“as needed.”**
- **Bullet 3** – Language is added to follow practice. “Voting on changes in the by-laws and academic regulations that are editorial corrections, or matters of consistency and reporting these changes **in writing** to the Senate.”

- **Paragraph 4, bullet 3 & 4** – Suggested changes to language to omit providing the Executive Committee agenda and minutes where suggested but it was agreed to keep the language as is and provide both.
- **The five changes above were VOTED on a passed 19-0-1 in favor.**
- **1X.B, 1 Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Bullet 1** – The process of what curriculum would be reviewed by the UCC and it was decided to return this language to the committee for further review and clarity.
- **IX.B, 3. – Committee on Faculty Actions, Bullet 1**– Deletion of “and part-time faculty” because of union contract.
- **Bullet 6** – Adding after dean, “and the file of a library faculty member on a continuing appointment.” was added due to the changes in the library manual.
- **These two changes were VOTED on 18-0-2 in favor.**
- **5. Bullets, 2, 3, 4** – Added Washington Research Library Consortium in bullet 2, “to maintain a liaison with the Office of Information Technology.....”. and “to maintain a liaison with CTRL” language was added to bullet 3 & 4 for clarity.
- **The Senate VOTED and the changes were approved 18-0-0.**

RiSE Update – “How to Engage Faculty” – Larry Engel

Professor Engel gave an update on the progress of the RiSE initiative and stated that he is trying to find ways to engage faculty in this process. He said that change is only going to work with the involvement of the faculty and he is asking for input.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM