

Minutes
Faculty Senate Meeting
May 3, 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, Joseph Costanzi, Tim Doud, John Douglass, Chris Edelson, Maria Gomez, John Heywood, Kelly Joyner, Ken Knight, Iris Krasnow, Emily Lindsay, Jun Lu, Cathy Schaeff, Steve Silvia, Kate Wilson, Zehra Peynircioglu, Shalini Venturelli, Provost Scott Bass, DAA Mary L. Clark.

Chair's Report – Todd Eisenstadt

Minutes Approval – Professor Eisenstadt opened the floor for discussion of the April 5, 2017 minutes. There was no discussion or changes. The Senate **VOTED** 21-0-0 in favor.

Student Government President - Taylor Dumpson

SG President (SG) Taylor Dumpson gave a brief overview of the hate crime that occurred after her election as SG President. Student Government will be hosting a townhall on May 4, 2017 and Senators were invited to attend. The discussion will be focused on protocols for moving forward on issues of race. She expressed her thanks to all the faculty and staff that have reached out to her during this time and would like to work closely with the Faculty Senate during her term as SG President.

Students including Isaiah Young, Ma'at Sargent of the Black Student Alliance, and Nicholas Pierce of the African Students Organization raised concerns about the recent hate crime as well as previous racist experiences of black woman and students at AU. Other student visitors also spoke. They expressed their feelings, fears, concerns, and experiences, and presented a list of demands. They are concerned about the lack of black professors in the classrooms and on the Faculty Senate. Several faculty agreed and requested changes.

The Senate **VOTED** 21-0-0 in favor of the following resolution:

Resolution Requesting the Formation of an AU Commission for Anti-Discrimination and a Senate Working Group for the Same

“The University Faculty Senate resolves to request on behalf of students, faculty, and staff of American University to request AU administration and AU Board to approve, fully resource, and implement a Permanent AU Commission for Anti-Discrimination of broad composition with broad authority, whose core mission includes the following: a) Investigate and report on a semester basis all incidents of discriminatory acts on our campus; and b) develop the most advanced model in higher education for anti-discriminatory policies and accountability in the nation. In addition, the Faculty Senate approves the creation of a permanent Senate committee to work as a bridge and in close coordination with the university commission on anti-discrimination in classrooms, workspace, and the wider campus.”

Professor Eisenstadt stated that the Faculty Senate would like to have a better understanding of what has and is happening on campus and better communication with student and administrative groups. He suggested that a Senate working group be established to come up with concrete solutions moving forward.

Professor Eisenstadt recognized the outgoing and incoming Senators who were present. He thanked those leaving for their challenging work and dedication and thanked those coming for their willingness to serve. He also gave a special thanks to Lura Graham, the Senate Operations Coordinator, for all that she does.

Annual Athletic Presentation on Athletes – Billy Walker

Due to time running over from the previous item, this presentation will occur in the fall.

GPA Requirement for the Honors Program – Chris Tudge

Professor Tudge presented two changes for approval: to include a representative from the Fredrick Douglass Distinguished Scholars program in the membership and to bring the GPA for the American University Honors program in compliance with financial aid. The Senate **VOTED** 18-0-0 in favor

Senate By-Law Changes relating to Multi-Year Term Faculty Senate Membership – Todd Eisenstadt

Professor Eisenstadt presented language that allows for units not offering multi-year contracts to term faculty to be exempt from the requirement for multi-year appointments as currently stated in the by-laws. The Senate **VOTED** 18-0-0 in favor.

Senate By-Law Language Change Relating to the New AU Core Committee – Cindy Bair Van Dam & Jessica Waters

Professor Bair Van Dam stated that the new language would reflect the membership and curriculum review process for the new AU Core, which will replace the old General Education language. The Senate **VOTED** 18-0-0 in Favor.

Committee on Faculty Grievances Instructions – Stacey Marien

Due to time running over from the previous item, this presentation will occur in the fall.

Senate Committees Annual Reports – Committee Chairs

The Senate opted to vote on all committee reports without presentation due to lack of time. The Senate **VOTED** 18-0-0 in favor.

Provost's Report – Scott Bass

The Provost stated the following:

- A recent townhall was held to inform all who attended that all possible resources are devoted to finding the perpetrator of the recent hate crime on campus. This included campus police, the DC police and the FBI. He stated that the university has been and will continue to work on the needs of the changing diversity of the student body and faculty. Growing pains are difficult but are being addressed.
- The most recent enrollment deposits came in at 1871. Despite all the terrible events that have been happening around the world, the international responses are up.
- This year the university had two Truman Scholars.
- This year's Faculty Recognition Dinner was a success.
- The May Board meeting will include demonstrations of the new Sony Tour. The pilot will take place over the summer.
- The TOP program has been helpful.
- WCL has gone through the accreditation process. The new dean has acted on many of the challenges and the results will be announced in the fall.

The Meeting was adjourned at 5 PM.