

*Minutes  
Faculty Senate Meeting  
May 2, 2018*

**\*\*\* The complete Recording for this meeting can be found at <https://myau.american.edu/groups/Committee/fs/SitePages/Home.aspx>**

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**Present:** Professors Andrea Pearson, Elizabeth Worden, Todd Eisenstadt, Tony Ahrens, Karen Baehler, Kyle Brannon, Stefano Costanzi, Chuck Cox, John Douglass, Chris Edelson, Bryan Fantie, Doug Fox, Steve Silvia, Nikhat Ghouse, Maria Gomez, John Heywood, Derrick Jefferson, David Kearns, Ken Knight, Emily Lindsey, Mohamed Nimer, Zehra Peynircioglu, Naoko Wowsugi, Provost Scott Bass, DAA Mary L. Clark.

**Professor Pearson opened the meeting at 2:36 PM**

**Provost's Search Firm Presentation – Michele Haertel and Susan Clifford**

Professor Pearson welcomed everyone to the meeting. She introduced representatives Michele Haertel and Susan Clifford from Spencer Stuart who gave an overview of the process and timeline for the Provost Search. The Search Committee may be contacted at ProvostSearch@american.edu. Spencer Stuart is accepting comments at auprovo@spencerstuart.com. Correspondence sent to this address will be shared with the search committee without attribution.

**Strategic Plan Update - Lacey Wootton and Pat Aufderheide**

Professor's Wootton and Aufderheide updated the Senate on the progress of the Strategic Plan. Draft documents have been posted on a Sharepoint site for all to review and comment. A series of meetings have been scheduled and they asked to encourage colleagues within units to participate. Questions and comments can be sent to strategy@american.edu.

**Chair's Report – Andrea Pearson**

**Minutes Approval for April 4, 2018**

Professor Pearson opened the floor for discussion or corrections to the April 4, 2018 minutes. There was no discussion or corrections. The Senate **VOTED** 19-0-2 in favor

**At-Large & Additional for Senate Executive Committee for AY2018-19**

Professor Pearson stated that the Senate Executive Committee nominated for the at-large and additional senators Professors Tony Ahrens, (at-large) and Mohamed Nimer (additional). The floor was opened for discussion and nominations; none were received from the floor. The Senate **VOTED** 21-1-0 in favor of Professors Ahrens and Nimer.

**SETs Update**

Professor Pearson stated that the pilot questions are underway will be completing at the end of the semester. The full results from the pilot will be brought to the Senate in the fall. She also reminded the senators that the CAS DAC report would also be discussed in the fall.

## Introduction of New Senators and Committee Members

Professor Pearson welcomed the newly unit elected Senators and committee members to the meeting. The following professors introduced themselves: Professors Jolynn Gardner CAS (Senator), Ana Cetina CAS (Senator), Jenny Axe (Committee on Information Services), Mindelyn Anderson (Committee on Learning Assessment), and Avery Boddie (University Library).

## Provost's Report – Scott Bass

Provost Bass gave an overview of the enrollment numbers for the fall 2018 applicants. He discussed student financial aid, demographics and international applicants. This year the deposits have come in on budget. The admit rate is at 31%. He stated that he felt the change was due to the many innovative programs offered. The average GPA is (3.75) and SAT scores are (1317). Provost Bass stated that this is another very talented incoming class.

## Academic Regulation Changes – Jessica Waters

Dean Waters brought forward the following regulation changes:

- **8.6.1 Quantitative Literacy I** – The proposed change was to abolish the Mathematics and Statistics Equivalency Exam. The Senate **VOTED** 18-0-1 in favor.
- **7. Credit Requirements** – Clarifies types of permits to study, simplifies structure of regulations 7.2 and 7.3, changes number of credits able to be transferred to 17.5 to align with university maximum credits allowed per term, clarifies that credits earned during permits to study are not calculated in AU GPAs but will be counted toward total number needed for graduation. The Senate **VOTED** 19-1-2 in favor.
- **10. Special Programs and Degrees** – Distinguishes the AU Honors Program and Honors in the Major as two separate programs, changes the cumulative GPA Honors students must maintain to 3.2 to remain in good standing to align with scholarship/financial requirements.
- **11 Special Course Types** – Clarifies that internship credit cannot be used to fulfill GenEd, College Math, University Writing, or AU Core Requirements, includes AU Core into language regarding community service learning, notes that students in the Washington Mentorship Program may complete a “Mentored Field Practicum” within their first 30 credits (an exception to the internship policy). The Senate **VOTED** on regs. 10 & 11, 22-0-1 in favor.
- **12. Registration** – Changes language regarding term/semester to more accurately describe deadlines for course withdrawal, added language suggested by OUR to clarify that students must satisfy course prerequisites to register for courses, reminds reader that the add/drop dates are included in the University Academic Calendar. Extensive and conflicting discussion was had on the new language added to **12.1.3**. It was decided to bring this regulation back for further debate in the fall.

- **13. Interruptions of Studies due to Temporary Leaves** – Clarifies military leave does not count against total number of leaves, changes term/semester for consistency. The Senate **VOTED** on regs 12 & 13 **except for 12.1.3** 18-2-2 in favor.
- **14. Suspension or Separation from the University** – Notes that there may be instances in which a student may not be permitted to voluntarily separate, adds Academic Integrity violation as a possible reason for involuntary suspension.
- **15. Petitioning an Academic Regulation** – Previous language that was included in regulation **1**. started with the process for petitioning and to put in a more appropriate location, the existing language was moved to the end of the regulations creating regulation 15. The Senate **VOTED** on regs. 14 & 15, 21-0-1 in favor.

#### **Proposed Senate Bylaw Revisions – Andrea Pearson**

Professor Pearson opened the floor for questions and discussion. After some discussion and small points of clarification, the Senate **VOTED** 21-0-0 in favor.

#### **Proposed Resolution Opposing the Addition of a Citizenship Question on the U.S. Census – Derrick Jefferson**

University Librarian Jefferson stated that when the 2020 Census change was announced by the media, it was decided by the University Librarians that due to the use of the vital nature of census data in research at AU, the census change will alter data results and that there was a need to express opposition to this change. It was also stated that the resolution would be sent to the entire AU community. Follow up might come later based on the outcome of the proposed change. The Senate **VOTED** 17-2-2 in favor. The resolution reads:

#### ***RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE ADDITION OF A CITIZENSHIP QUESTION TO THE 2020 CENSUS***

*Faculty Senate, May 2, 2018*

*Whereas the Commerce Department has announced its intention to add a question concerning citizenship status to the 2020 Census; and*

*Whereas The addition of a citizenship question has not and will not be included in field tests that are used to validate the survey instrument; and*

*Whereas It is reasonable to anticipate that such a question will result in systematic undercounting of immigrants, creating serious sampling bias in the 2020 Census; and*

*Whereas A systematic undercounting of immigrants would also render overall population figures unreliable; and*

*Whereas Sampling bias in the 2020 Census will further undermine the validity of future research that uses data from the 2020 Census; and*

*Whereas The Census is a key source of data used in social science, health, and environment research; and*

*Whereas The research produced by faculty and researchers throughout this country contributes not only to the advancement of knowledge but also to the development of programs, initiatives and interventions to serve the public good.*

***BE IT RESOLVED*** *That the Faculty Senate strongly condemns the addition of a citizenship question to the 2020 Census for its effect of diminishing the reliability of Census data and research.*

## **Annual Committee Reports – Andrea Pearson**

Professor Pearson opened the floor for any questions of the provided Senate Standing Committee reports. No discussion was needed so the Senate **VOTED** 21-0-0 in favor of all reports.

## **Faculty Senate Resolution in Honor of Provost Scott Bass – Andrea Pearson**

Professor Pearson stated that the Faculty Senate would like to present a resolution in honor of Provost Scott Bass who will be leaving his position as provost at the end of June to begin a new Center for Higher Education. The resolution reads:

***Whereas** Scott Bass has served American University admirably as Provost since 2008 and will leave his position on June 30, 2018;*

***Whereas** Provost Bass was instrumental in the recruitment and hiring of 43 percent of the current full-time tenure-line faculty and over half of the current full-time term faculty, and in raising the racial and ethnic diversity of the faculty body;*

***Whereas** under his leadership AU is now a “Higher Research Activity” or R2 institution in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, in recognition of the university’s research infrastructure, doctoral programs, centers for knowledge production, external funding, high impact faculty research published with top journals and presses, and national faculty awards;*

***Whereas** he championed the Myers Technology and Innovation Building and the Hall of Science to ensure that AU’s academic facilities matched the quality of our faculty and students;*

***Whereas** he established the AU 2030 initiative that invests in cross-disciplinary faculty collaboration;*

*Whereas he reenvisioned and revised with the Faculty Senate the Faculty Manual, to further clarify the collaborative governance model and faculty rights and responsibilities therein;*

***Whereas** he increased with the help of the enrollment management team the racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, and geographic diversity of the undergraduate student body, primarily through increasing need-based financial aid;*

***Whereas** undergraduate applications have reached record numbers, and more students are prioritizing AU as their first choice, in part because of new initiatives such as the Frederick Douglass Distinguished Scholars Program;*

***Whereas** with the deans and faculty he established AU’s first online master’s programs and modernized the recruitment and admission process;*

***Whereas** he collaborated with university and external constituents to receive support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to expand the advising system and academic support services, which will be fully implemented in the fall of 2018 in the form of RiSE;*

***Whereas** he spearheaded the development and implementation of the AU Core Curriculum when other universities have failed to carry out a curricular overhaul of this magnitude;*

*The Faculty Senate on behalf of the faculty of American University commends Provost Bass, expresses its appreciation for his leadership, and wishes him well as he returns to the School of Public Affairs and embarks on a sabbatical to establish a center for higher education at American University. **The Resolution passed by accolade.***

## **Transition of the Gavel – Andrea Pearson and Elizabeth Worden**

Professor Pearson thanked Senators and Operations Coordinator of the Senate Lura Graham for a momentous year. She transferred the gavel to Elizabeth Worden with best wishes for the year to come.

## **The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 PM**