

Minutes
Faculty Senate Meeting
September 13, 2017

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

Present: Professors: Andrea Pearson, Elizabeth Worden, Todd Eisenstadt, Anthony Ahrens, Karen Baehler, Chuck Cox, John Douglass, Chris Edelson, Bryan Fantie, Doug Fox, John Heywood, Derrick Jefferson, Emily Lindsay, Mohamed Nimer, Zehra Peynircioglu, Jim Quirk, Cathy Schaeff, Richard Sha, Steve Silvia, Shalini Venturelli, Provost Scott Bass

Welcome & Chair’s Report– Andrea Pearson

Professor Pearson welcomed Senators to the first meeting of the year followed by individual introductions. Professor Pearson introduced the Director of University Conference & Guest Services Kim Araya and Assistant Director Tess Mabry who gave a brief overview of the services available in the new conference center on East Campus.

Professor Pearson requested approval from the Senate for the nominees Anthony Ahrens and Mohamed Nimer as the at-large and additional senators on the Senate Executive Committee for AY 2017-2018. The Senate **VOTED** 17-0-2 in favor.

Minutes Approval – Professor Pearson opened the floor for discussion of the May 3, 2017 minutes. There was no discussion or changes. The Senate **VOTED** 15-0-4 in favor.

Professor Pearson gave the following updates on:

- The ADA compliance of the university website. Information may be moved but will be archived and available.
- Undergraduate Regulations changes to 2.0 Graduation Requirements/2.1 Minimum Requirements/ 2.1.2 Transfer Credits/ 6.2 Non-degree Students/ 6.2.3 Non-degree credits were reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee over the summer to meet the publication of the online catalog. The changes reduced the number of external credits and increased the number of internal credits to obtain a degree from AU.
- The term faculty & additional changes to the *Faculty Manual* are being reviewed by the Board of Trustees sub-committee to present to the full Board for approval in Nov.
- A new Diversity & Inclusion Standing Committee is being created as discussed at the final Senate meeting last Spring. New bylaws are being drafted by the ad-hoc committee and will be brought to the Executive Committee and then to the Senate in October for review.

Athletics Presentation – Director Billy Walker and Ashley Rozendaal

Director of Athletics Billy Walker gave an overview of the athletes athletic and academic achievements for AY 2016-2017. He gave a breakdown of the overall GPA’s for the year, individual academics awards, team awards and the distribution numbers of students in the Faculty Senate • September 13, 2017 Minutes

schools and college. Additionally, Director Ashley Rozendaal from the Student-Athlete Academic & Life Skills Support office gave an overview of the services that are offered to the athletes which include life skills and tutoring.

Provost Report – Scott Bass

Provost Bass welcomed everyone to another year. He encouraged the senators to visit the Don Myers Building which is a state of the art learning environment. He also highlighted the following:

- Undergraduate enrollment numbers are right on target.
- Graduate numbers have improved for online courses and face to face numbers have grown from last year, but the overall numbers still fall short.
- Phase one of the university library renovations are complete.
- *Faculty Manual* revisions review with the BoT sub-committee are almost complete and will meet the November Board of Trustees meeting date.
- The SPA dean search is well underway and the SIS deans search has begun.
- Dean Peter Starr will be taking a sabbatical in the spring to return to Stanford as a dean.
- Pilot's for AUX 1&2 for 57 students has completed. Feedback data has been collected. 400 students have rolled out for the fall. Complex Problems pilots and Supplemental Instruction pilots are underway and will expand next fall.
- Campus climate for students of color is still an issue. These students are not feeling welcomed and feel excluded.
- Classroom speakers are a concern and a possible set of procedural instructions might be something to be developed.
- Meetings with students over the summer went extremely well. They requested that two additional questions be added on classroom climate to the ITS and to release the comments to administrators.
- Retention numbers are good.
- Social Media is a great tool but there can be consequences with its use.
- Reminder of the CTRL course syllabus policy on the issue of recordings in the classroom. This policy is on the CTRL website and is recommended to be on all syllabi.

Committee on Faculty Grievances (CFG) Procedures Instructions – Don Williamson

Professor Williams, Chair of the Committee on Faculty Grievances, stated that the CFG Procedure Instructions were written to clarify the charge of the CFG and as a resource for grievants on how to submit a file.

Postdoctoral Appointments: New Faculty Manual Language – Scott Bass

Provost Bass stated that the current *Faculty Manual* and HR do not have official appointment language for Postdocs. He stated that it is very important that this language to be added to the manual and available for HR and for the Carnegie Classifications. The Senate **VOTED** 19-0-0 in favor.

New Term Faculty Affairs Standing Committee Proposed By-Laws – Maria Gomez

Professor Pearson stated that the ad-hoc committee worked over the summer to write the by-laws for the new Term Faculty Affairs Committee.

Professor Maria Gomez stated that she chaired the committee and presented for discussion the proposed final draft by-laws. After discussion and requested changes on the representation for CAS and minor grammatical friendly amendments, the Senate **VOTED** 18-2-0 in favor.

ITS Pilot Results – Doug McKenna

University Registrar (UR) Doug McKenna stated that discussion on changing the name of the ITS is something the Provost will be possibly working on moving forward. In spring 2017 the new questions were piloted and the electronic response rate was low for the semester. UR McKenna went over the results of the pilot data. The main concerns were: there are too many questions, the comment sections below each question are cumbersome, and the accessibility of the written comments to the faculty only.

Professor Lindsay asked how the question of sharing comments has been conveyed around the campus. Professor Pearson replied that it has been discussed with several groups and most recently at the Senate Deans Roundtable prior to this meeting and she would like the Senate to decide on this matter. Provost Bass stated that the administration will be making the final decision after further discussion and consideration.

Professor Pearson stated that she discussed over the summer with student leaders the possibly having a mid-term climate survey for all classes. The survey would be just for the faculty and would aim to uncover problems students might have prior to the end of the course. Discussion about templates and the composition of questions followed.

UR McKenna stated that he would request the new sub-committee complete the charge in October to be able to implement the new process at the end of the spring semester.

For the Good of the Order

Professor Silvia, co-chair on the Committee on Faculty Actions, stated that the fall CFA/DAA open meeting is being held on September 20 and he would like to ask all senators to share this information with their units and encourage anyone who is involved with the review process to attend the meeting.

Professor John Douglass proposed electronic voting for the Senate meetings.

The Meeting was adjourned at 4:55PM