

Minutes

*Faculty Senate Meeting
April 6, 2022*

*The complete Recording for this meeting can be
found at:*

*[https://myau.american.edu/groups/Committee/fs/Shared%20Documents/Forms/
AllItems.aspx](https://myau.american.edu/groups/Committee/fs/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx)*

Present: Professors: Garret Martin, John Heywood, Lillian Baeza-Mendoza, Rebecca Hazen, David Haaga, Britta Peterson, Laura Beers, Robert Hauswald, Sarah Irvine Belson, Randall Blair, Mirjana Morosini, Alan Levine, Nikhat Ghouse, Benjamin Leff, Shawn Bates, Jim Quirk, Richard Sha, Elizabeth Cotter, Kelly Joyner, Mike Cabot, Rhonda Zaharna, Cathy Schaeff, Gabriel Mathy, Mauro Tiso, Olivia Ivey, Elissa Margolin, Carolyn Parker, Jennifer Steele, Provost Peter Starr, DOF Monica Jackson

Chair's Report – Garret Martin

The Chair of the Faculty Senate, Professor Martin (SIS), began the meeting promptly, opening the floor for discussion or proposed edits to the Faculty Senate meeting minutes for March 2022. The senate **VOTED** 17-0-0 in favor. He later shared information on the following items:

- New members of the Distinguished Professor Review Committee: Professors Kim Blankenship (CAS), Angela Davis (WCL), and Jeff Gill (SPA) will join this committee this year. Committee members are jointly appointed by the Provost and the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate.
- New Campus representatives to the Board of Trustees: The Faculty Senate received 11 nominations, and three were presented for ratification at the meeting: Kelly Joiner, Valentina Bruno, and Raychelle Burks. Senators were asked to vote individually for each nominee.
- University Faculty Awards: The University Faculty Awards Committee finished its task and provided recommendations to the Provost. An official announcement with the list of awardees will be out soon. A virtual Faculty recognition event is scheduled for Sunday, April 24 at 5:00 pm.
- Middle States Updates: The steering committee co-chaired by Sheila Bedford and Karen Froslid-Jones is working on the Middle States accreditation process. The Middle States Vice President liaison will be on campus virtually on May 17. More information is forthcoming.
- Faculty Senate informal luncheon: Our last informal luncheon is scheduled for April 20 at noon.
- OGPS/OGIS: The Board of Trustees approved the administrative decision of establishing OGPS and OGIS as academic units. Now we started the faculty process of giving our colleagues representation in the Senate and in Senate committees. The Senate is in conversations with colleagues in those units to identify the best representation options moving forward.

Action Item: Vote for nominees for Vice Chair of the Senate

Professor Martin was pleased to share with senators that we have two colleagues that have their names put forward for consideration for the position of vice chair of the Faculty Senate. Professors

Stefano Costanzi (CAS) and Tom Merrill (SPA) were nominated, and they both outlined their vision and priorities for the next academic year. The Faculty Senate appreciates their willingness to serve. The Senate **VOTED** 8-11-2 for Professor Tom Merrill.

Provost's Report – Peter Starr

Provost Starr reported on the following items:

- Provost Starr thanked the University Faculty Awards Committee for its work. The list of award recipients is very strong. An announcement will be sent to the community in few days.
- Dean searches: The CAS dean search is in the approval pipeline. The finalists for the SIS dean position are visiting campus. The Kogod search is in the sourcing phase. Provost Starr encourages participation in the search process by attending candidates' presentations. This feedback is very important in the process.
- US News: Good news in our ranking. The School of Public Affairs jumped from 13th to 10th in ranking. The Washington School of Law rose 8 positions to 73. Kogod rose 11 spots to 76.
- Change Can't Wait: We had great faculty presence at the campaign events in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Fort Lauderdale, and soon in DC.
- Annual Provost's Address: Provost Starr thanked Professor Martin and the Faculty Senate for sponsoring this event this year.
- Board of Trustees: The Board is meeting on April 8 to approve the expense portion of the two-year budget.

Presentation: President Burwell's Annual Spring Visit - President Sylvia Matthews Burwell

President Burwell thanked the Faculty Senate and the AU community for all the hard work during this academic year. She is also thankful for all of those who participated in the Beautification Day on campus. She shared information on the budget, community, the capital campaign, and efforts related to AU research, reputation, and student retention. The Faculty Senate engaged in a discussion on how AU changed in the past few years, and what are the most important priorities that AU needs to address in the future. Other topics of discussion included student wellness, hybridity, and the Carmel Institute of Russian Culture & History.

Action Item: Committee on Learning Assessment Bylaw Language Changes to Membership – Mike Cabot.

Committee chair Mike Cabot shared that COLA received a request from the University Library faculty council to have their representative removed from the committee. COLA discussed and approved this request at their last meeting. They also hope to add additional members to the committee later. The Senate **VOTED** 18-0-0 in favor.

Action Item: AU Core Senate Bylaw Language Change to Chair of the Core Council – Jessica Waters, Garret Martin, Cindy Bair Van Dam, Brad Knight.

Dean Water and her team proposed a bylaw language change to clarify how the Chair of the AU Core Council is selected and approved, in the same manner that the bylaws had clarified the selection and approval process for the Faculty Director of the Honors Advisory Committee. They also proposed to establish term limits for the Chair of the AU Core Council. The Senate **VOTED** 18-1-0 in favor.

**Action Item: Board of Trustees Campus Representative Committee Bylaw Change
Language – Garret Martin**

Professor Martin proposed to establish a special committee to formally bring together the Campus Representatives to the Board of Trustees committees. This change in language in the bylaws would improve coordination and exchange of information about Board of Trustees meetings. The Senate **VOTED** 16-0-1 in favor

For the Good of the Order – Garret Martin

Professor Martin shared that the Faculty Senate expects many items in the agenda for the May meeting, including some action items for OGPS/OGIS, a full report by the Task Force on Term-Faculty Reappointment, a briefing on FEWG, and a proposal on course releases in the CFA.