

Minutes
Faculty Senate Meeting

***** The complete recording for this meeting can be found at <http://www.american.edu/facultysenate/agendas-minutes.cfm> March 2, 2016**

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

Professor Engel called the meeting to order at 2:38 PM

Chair's Report – Larry Engel

Professor Engel welcomed everyone to the meeting. He stated the meeting was being held at the new law school and the campus was very impressive. Professor Engel then turned the meeting over to Dean Grossman for his welcome.

Dean Grossman welcomed the Senate to the Washington College of Law (WCL) and stated that he would hope that the Senate would consider returning more often. He gave thanks to Billie Jo Kaufman for her all her work and commitment to the college. Dean Grossman gave an overview of the state of WCL and the collaboration with the law school and other schools and colleges on main campus. He also mentioned the growth in diversity with minorities and women.

Professor Engel thanked Dean Grossman and gave the floor to Librarian Mary Mintz who presented a resolution from the Senate to Dean Grossman. The resolution reads:

Whereas Claudio Grossman has announced his intention to return to a regular faculty position after serving as dean of the Washington College of Law for more than two decades since his initial appointment in 1995;

Whereas Dean Grossman has brought profound distinction upon himself, the Washington College of Law, and American University through his dedication to promoting international human rights through his service on the United Nations Committee Against Torture, a body which he has chaired since 2008;

Whereas Dean Grossman has served in many capacities on the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States, including as its president, and served on many country missions for the commission;

Whereas Dean Grossman currently serves as the president of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights;

Whereas Dean Grossman's work on international human rights has been recognized with many awards and honors, including an honorary doctoral degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University and commendations from the governments of Colombia, Guatemala, Peru, and The Netherlands;

Whereas as a practicing attorney, Dean Grossman has provided advice and counsel in cases and causes at the highest levels, including the International Court of Justice, and has won recognition from his peers, including a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Hispanic Bar Association;

Whereas Dean Grossman's leadership in legal education has been recognized on the national and international levels and he has been cited four times as one of the most influential legal educators in the United States;

Whereas Dean Grossman significantly expanded the Washington College of Law in enrollments, programs, and facilities and has led the relocation of the law school to larger and better campuses twice in his career;

Whereas the whole of American University has benefitted from his presence and leadership at this institution;

And whereas Dean Grossman's accomplishments represent a great personal triumph over the adversity he faced as a member of the Allende government in Chile when that government was overthrown, and he made a new life for himself and his family first in The Netherlands and then in the United States;

On behalf of the entire faculty, the Faculty Senate commends Dean Grossman and expresses its appreciation to him for his many contributions in his many endeavors and wishes him well as he returns to his focus as Professor and Raymond Geraldson Scholar for International and Humanitarian Law.

The resolution passed on a unanimous voice vote. Dean Grossman thanked the Senate for the resolution.

Feb 10, 2016 Faculty Senate Minutes Approval – Professor Engel opened the floor for discussion and approval of the February 10, 2016 minutes. The Senate **VOTED** and the minutes were approved 16-0-0.

Professor Engel stated the following on his remaining items:

- Visitors/Agenda Items for Remaining Senate Meetings - May 11, 2016 additional Senate meeting. Standing committees will be giving annual updates. The Grade Inflation, Term Faculty Manual Language, diversity Working Group and RiSE will also provide an update.
- **Vice Chair Election Results** – Andrea Pearson was elected vice chair of the Senate for AY 2016-2017. The Senate **VOTED** 19-0-2 in favor.
- **Update on Grade Inflation (GI) and Term Faculty Manual Language (TFFML) Committees** – The TFFML committee has created two sub committees, 1) to begin drafting promotion language for the Professorial Lecture track and 2) will go through the 2011 ad-hoc Term Faculty Report reviewing what sections of the report may be applicable to the Faculty Manual. Their work will continue in the fall. Grade Inflation is moving along and has a very detailed outline with research and recommendations. The committee is working on a survey with the Career Center on perception of grades from the outside. Chairs of both committees will be at the May 11 meeting to report on their current actions.

Provost's Report – Scott Bass - Provost Bass stated gave the following updates and information:

- Four senior level searches are in progress. The first round interviews for WCL, KSB have been completed and the VPUG internal search is complete and awaiting a final report from the interview committee. The dean for the School of Education search has completed interviews with four candidates.
- Work on the tenure files are in progress and are being handled one school or college at a time. The CFA has completed its work and moved the information on in a timely fashion. Promotion files will follow.
- The visit to The Cleveland Clinic has been planned and will report back to the Senate.
- At the February BOT meeting University Librarian Here is Davenport gave a great talk on implications of technology on the library and was of great interest to the members of the BOT. An additional presentation was on the Office of Merit Awards that works with undergraduate and graduate students on how to prepare for applying for merit awards, and national and international distinction. In the most recent round of Presidential Management Fellows, American University is number one. For the fourth year in a row a goal was set to be in the top tier listed in the Chronical, independent of size, for the Fulbright Student Scholars and we had 12 last year being tied with University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The Peace Core Volunteer listing of numbers places AU at number 2.
- Enrollment numbers compared to last year are up 2,602 applicants for the first year class. Early decision is 87 above last year's number which means approximately 40% of the class has been selected. This will mean for a very competitive selection process.

Ombuds Report and Assistant Dean Position – Dean Clark stated that the position will be an Associate Dean of Academic Affairs from the Provost's office. This position will work closely with Dean Clark on term faculty initiative's and may include compensation, faculty manual language review, and advice and counsel. Further information was given on the application process.

Professor Martinez who spoke representing the Ombuds Committee report stated that the new position presented by Dean Clark has a great deal of merit but is not an alternative to an AU Ombuds person. Professor Martinez stated the following points of importance for the Ombuds position:

- Impartiality and being outside of the administrative reporting structure except for reporting to the President
- Trained professional person who will help navigate, coach and listen
- Ability to collect data on trends and report them to the President

Librarian Marien stated that last spring the Senate requested the ad-hoc committee to do some research and come back with how the position would be structured. The committee did so by looking at best practices. Librarian Marien stated that it is the hope that the Senate will endorse further development to be considered in the next budget cycle. The

Senate engaged in further comments and discussions on this matter and **VOTED** 16-3-3 in favor. Professor Engel stated he will send the report to the President.

Libraries and Technology – Nancy Davenport

University Librarian Nancy Davenport stated that there are many parts to running a library. She said they include, people, space, technology, elections and other sources. The librarians and staff have an very large amount of appointments to help students with research both in person and through an online chat service that supports the many new online classes. Librarian Davenport informed the senators of the many other items that fall under the library as an attempt to show the importance of how technology is effecting the library/university and its future. Budgetary issues were also discussed and included licensing fees and acquisition costs especially for online sources.

Faculty Senate By-Law Revisions – Lacey Wootton

Professor Wootton stated that the remaining by-law changes be presented and approved to complete the review. The following changes were discussed:

- **1X.B Standing Committee, 1. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee –** Language was written to clarify the various levels of review; “After the unit has responded to the committee’s recommendations, the committee forwards its recommendations to approve, modify, or reject the proposal to the next level of review.” This same language was approved to include in the **2. Graduate Curriculum Committee** section. The Senate **VOTED** 19-0-0 in favor.
- **6. Committee on Learning Assessment –** Deletion of the language, “to submit a written report to the Faculty Senate each December” in last bullet. This does not reflect practice.
- **C. Special and Advisory Committees, 1. Committee on Faculty Grievances –** “Its function, as stipulated in the *Faculty Manual*, is to investigate and evaluate all formal grievances filed by members of the faculty and to issue a report specifying its conclusions and recommendations, which is then sent to the grievant and to either the university president or provost...” This language was edited to clarify process.
- **2. The Faculty Hearing Committee -** Language was deleted to help accurately state the committee charge. Deleted language was, “involving termination of continuous tenure appointments or probationary or special term” and replaced with “involving full-time.... The Senate Executive Committee draws individual hearing panels from the elected members of the Committee to hear cases.” The Senate **VOTED** 18-0-0 in favor on the last three bullets.
- **3. Committee on General Education –** Language was changed to clarify the role of the Vice Provost of Undergraduate Studies on the General Education Committee. “Serving as *ex officio* non-voting members will be the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies, the chair (or designee) of the Faculty Senate Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, and the General Education Librarian.”

- **4. The Honors Advisory Committee** - Extensive editorial language was changed for clarity and to outline the new process of the committee's director position.
- **D. Board of Trustees Representatives of the Faculty Senate** – “academic Affairs Committee” was added to clarify the responsibility of the Chair of the Senate as a BOT rep.
- **Article X. Eligibility for and Nominations and Election to the Senate and Its Committees. A. Eligibility** – “The Faculty Hearing Committee” was added to the list in this paragraph for accuracy.
- **B. Nominations and Elections for Campus-Wide Positions** – Reference to the Committee on Faculty Grievances was deleted as its seats are now represented by each school or college, and additional language was edited for clarity on process. The Senate **VOTED** 18-0-0 in favor on the last 5 bullets.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 PM