

Academic Assembly
June 5, 2017
2:05 – 3:35pm, STCN 130

MINUTES

Present: Sarah Bee, Rick Block, Pat Buchsel, Brooke Coleman, Leticia Guardiola-Saenz, Mike Huggins, Kate Koppelman, Viviane Lopuch, Agnieszka Miguel, Carrie Miller, David Neel, Michael Ng, Erik Olsen, Tracy Pepper, Frank Shih, John Strait, Colette Taylor, Charles Tung, Dan Washburn, Tina Zamora

Minutes taken by Rosa Hughes

- I. Review of 5-22-17 Minutes
 - A. Minutes approved with no oppositions and one abstention
- II. Faculty Technology Committee (*Rich LeBlanc*)
 - A. Overview
 - 1. Representative advisory committee appointed by Academic Assembly
 - 2. Appointed members have continued on the committee for multiple years, does not match charter
 - 3. Acts as voice of the faculty to the CIO, Associate CIO and Information Technology Services
 - a. Selection and rollout of Canvas
 - b. Advice regarding ITS policies
 - c. Early faculty input regarding RevSU
 - d. Upcoming: classroom configuration
 - B. Discussion
 - 1. It is hard to know who to contact about faculty-specific IT issues
 - 2. The faculty should receive specific emails from the CIO when a major incident occurs
 - 3. Ongoing email connectivity issues are a major issue
 - 4. P drive down for a week was unacceptable – Ellucian contract must include support clause that allows SU to leave the contract if our critical needs are not met
 - 5. Lack of communication/regular reporting from FTC to campus, don't know exactly what the responsibilities of the committee are to AcA and campus
 - 6. Question of membership is related, understand need for continuity but also need a greater sense of transparency and inclusion
 - 7. AcA may want to request written, quarterly summaries from FTC, and the addition of a AcA member on the FTC
 - 8. Perhaps FTC appointments should take place in June, not fall, for continuity purposes
 - 9. AcA requests faculty presence at new contract negotiations
 - 10. Rich will bring these issues to CIO and attend an early fall AcA meeting to address ongoing issues
- III. RevSU Update (*Travis Nation, Robert Spencer*)
 - A. Open forums in the next few weeks
 - B. July go-live process
 - 1. Colleague freeze from June 17 to July 10
 - 2. SUDDS data will end June 29, InformSU (new database) will go live July 3
 - 3. Impacts Colleague, SUOnline, WebAdvisor, Self-Service, Student Account Center (not available during transition)

4. Things won't look largely different for most faculty
 5. In December, student planning will roll out
 6. Student roster in SU Online will not pull up the student's picture
- IV. Academic Affairs Operations Review Committee Report**
- A. 39 recommendations across 13 areas, main ones to AcA, Deans' Council, and Provost's Office
 - B. Many recommendations call for greater uniformity across university
 - C. Discussion
 1. How the recommendations for uniformity will be handled by the deans is a concern
 2. Recommendations seem to go in the direction of purely quantitative, do not take into account the qualitative considerations of departments such as Philosophy (lost majors in the new Core)
 3. Visionary leadership must arise from AcA with better ideas for the application of equity
 4. Future of project – originally understood to be multi-year project, data will be much improved in RevSU
 5. Would like to see AcA response to A&S FSS survey on cost of living, AAOR report
 6. Motion – AcA seeks to take action on the A&S FSS survey, we ask the administration to conduct another salary analysis making central the cost of living as a factor in various benchmarks, we site the AAOR report
 - a. Approved with no oppositions or abstentions
- V. Student Evaluations**
- A. Motion: Though Student Evaluations of Teaching (SET) can provide useful formative information to teachers as practitioners, meta-analyses of students of SET show that such evaluations are racist, sexist, ageist, and ableist. (Reference: FSS analysis from FQ16.) Thus, uncritical inclusion of SET as part of tenure, promotion, and merit-pay processes will pollute those processes with biases against vulnerable populations. Academic Assembly urges the Provost to instruct all schools/colleges to review their procedures to insure that these facts are taken into account during tenure, promotion, and merit-pay processes, and to provide a report back to Academic Assembly on or before December 31, 2017 with updates on this effort.
 - B. Discussion
 1. If schools/colleges report back that they find that overall evaluations are still useful, what have we really accomplished?
 2. Loop in Chief Diversity Officer into the report requirements to weigh in on whether these are a metric of teaching quality
 3. Motion with above edit approved with no oppositions or abstentions
- VI. SU FLAG Proposal**
- A. Motion: That AcA formally endorse this Family Leave Proposal and send its endorsement along to HR, to Fr. Steve, and to the Board of Trustees
 - B. Discussion
 1. Raising staff family leave amount to match current faculty family leave amount
 2. Motion approved with no oppositions or abstentions
- VII. Ombuds Support**
- A. Motion/Statement: The Ombuds office was a product of AcA initiation over an extended period of five years. The continual and uninterrupted function of the Ombuds office is in the best interest of the faculty. The AcA, the faculty voice Seattle University, wish to affirm the following: (1) The Ombuds office serves an important function for the university faculty. We see its increased utilization being a positive sign that members of the community are finding

the office to be a useful resource aligned with tasks articulated in the job description. (2) The Ombuds office follows the International Ombudsman Association Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice. Its independence is essential to the effective functioning of the office. (3) The Ombuds office needs to be sufficiently funded to effectively serve its function. It is essential that no further cuts be made to its budget this year and we urge for the restoration to the prior level when possible.

- B. Discussion
 - 1. Part of the issues may have been a style difference between the Ombuds office and the office it reports to
 - 2. AcA should reaffirm the importance of the office with this in mind
 - 3. Motion approved with no oppositions or abstentions

VIII. Course Caps

- A. Motion: Academic Assembly recommends to PRC and Provost that “Maximum Enrollment” [or “Course Cap”] field be added to “New Course Proposal” and “Course Revision” documents. Courses are designed and revised with Learning Outcomes appropriate to certain class sizes. Changes to maximum class size should trigger a new round of review of Learning Outcomes to protect and preserve student learning experience.
- B. Approved with no oppositions and one abstention

IX. AcA Officer Election

- A. President
 - 1. Nominees: Margit McGuire and Frank Shih
 - a. Frank Shih elected to President
- B. Vice President for Program Review
 - 1. Nominee: the faculty member who does not win the above Presidency
 - a. Margit McGuire still needs to be elected to AcA in the College of Education, in order to serve as VP of AcA – this vote has not yet occurred
- C. Vice President for Faculty Handbook
 - 1. Nominee: Michael Ng
 - a. Michael Ng elected to VP for handbook

X. Committee on Just and Proper Use of Data

- A. Motion: Request that the Provost and VP for Institutional Effectiveness jointly create a Committee on Just and Proper Use of Data, staffed with at least three faculty. Said committee can then function to evaluate and improve internal and external institutional uses of data, as well as set up reporting mechanism available to students, staff, and faculty.
 - 1. Approved with no oppositions or abstentions