



**Academic Assembly Meeting No. 6  
Monday, November 15, 2021  
2:05 p.m. – 3:35 p.m., Zoom Meeting**

**MINUTES**

**Presenters:** Mark Chinen, Nalini Iyer, Shane P. Martin, Katie Oliveras and Kirsten Thompson.

**Members Present:** Carol Adams, Mimi Cheng, Mark Cohan, Marc Cohen, Yancy Dominick, Doug Eriksen, Paul Holland, Nalini Iyer, Angie Jenkins (Ex-Officio, SUSC), JaHun Kim, Shane P. Martin (Ex-Officio, Provost), Kelly McBroom, Richard McGaha, Margit McGuire, Carrie Miller, Katie Oliveras, Adeline Ong (Ex-Office, SUSG), Russ Powell, Patrick Schoettmer, Frank Shih, Heath Spencer, Kirsten Thompson, Phillip Thompson, Charles Tung (Ex-Officio, Provost) and Valentina Zamora.

**Guests:** Hidy Basta, Michelle DuBois, Joanne Hughes, Jean Jacoby, Agnieszka Miguel and David Neel.

**I. Opening Remarks & Updates, *Frank Shih***

**2:07 p.m. – 2:13 p.m.**

- a. Meeting was called to order at 2:06 pm by Academic Assembly's (AcA) President, Frank Shih.
- b. **MOTION** Moved by Frank Shih: "Move to approve the agenda for the November 15, 2021 meeting of the Academic Assembly (AcA)." Seconded. **Approved.**
- c. **MOTION** Moved by Frank Shih: "Move to approve the meeting minutes from November 1, 2021 as revised, out of session, by AcA members." Seconded. **Approved.**
- d. **MOTION** Moved by Frank Shih: "Move to approve the meeting minutes from October 18, 2021 as amended, out of session, by AcA members." Seconded. **Approved.**
- e. Introduction of Valentina Zamora, AcA's newly elected member. She is replacing ASB's Holly Ferraro.

**II. Provost Updates, *Shane P. Martin***

**2:13 p.m. – 2:24 p.m.**

Provost Martin provided the following brief updates:

- a. Similar to FQ21, WQ22 and SQ22 will have predominately in-person instruction with limited online classes.
- b. Seattle University actively monitors the latest information on COVID-19, including CDC guidelines and state legal requirements, to inform the university in reviewing and adjusting its plans and policies.
- c. The Provost's Office was not involved in a recent personnel matter involving the Athletics Department. Provost Martin referred AcA to a statement by Director of Athletics Shaney Fink. Provost Martin supported the suggestion to invite Ms. Fink to an upcoming AcA

meeting to discuss the Athletics Department's programs and initiatives regarding diversity, equity and inclusion

### III. URTC Charter Approval

2:24 p.m. – 2:59 p.m.

*Mark Chinen and Kirsten Thompson*

- a. URTC members act more as *resources with insight* rather than advocates. Subsequently, URTC should be composed of 8-9 elected members. This composition aligns with URTC's structure and advances representation of each school/college in shared governance.
- b. Once the Committee on Committees (ConC) recommends faculty appointments, URTC will pause their work until they begin reviewing tenure and promotion applications.
- c. Rank and tenure best practices have shifted nationwide and will likely be reflected at SU. URTC membership would be limited to full professors and through recent revisions to the Faculty Handbook the university has expanded opportunities for promotion to full professor. Professors Chinen and Thompson recommend that faculty contact ConC Chair Katie Oliveras for more information.
- d. AcA members asked for clarification on the processes and procedures of URTC, especially ConC's role in appointments. These revision requests were tabled.
- e. **MOTION** Moved by Kirsten Thompson: "With the following amending language, 'The ConC will consult with the respective colleges to ascertain where specific disciplines best reside,' do you approve the proposed charter?" AcA members discussed the motion. Seconded.  
**Approved.** *Waiving 1 meeting period for amending bylaw—17 yay, 0 nay, 1 abstention.*  
*Approve the proposed charter—17 yay, 1 nay, 2 abstention.*

### IV. Discussion on FQ21 Student Issues, *Nalini Iyer*

2:59 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

- a. Some faculty are concerned for students because their attendance is low; however, other faculty noted they are experiencing better attendance than ever. The Provost will discuss this issue with the Deans Council at their upcoming meeting.
- b. Since very few programs will require in-person instruction after Thanksgiving, AcA urges Provost Martin and/or President Peñalver to make a campus-wide announcement clarifying instructional expectations for the remainder of FQ21.

### V. Update on Priorities & Action Items, *Katie Oliveras*

3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

- a. ConC will make a university-wide call for all committees. AcA members should directly request individuals to serve since no faculty have come forward voluntarily.
- b. Before Student Evaluations and APR committees are called to meet, they need appointments and membership filled. Reports from both committees are expected by the end of WQ22.
- c. Faculty Welfare Committee's first meeting is called and scheduled for December 2, 2021.

### VI. Closing Remarks, *Frank Shih*

3:30 p.m. – 3:35 p.m.

A motion must be made to further discuss Professor Phillip Thompson's (CSE) proposal for an early start to Fall Quarter. Thompson noted that he plans on moving forward with a Qualtrics survey for CSE faculty.

*Meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.*