

Academic Assembly
March 11, 2013
2:05 – 3:35pm, STCN 130

MINUTES

Present: David Arnesen, Mason Bryan, Carol Wolfe Clay, Karen Cowgill, Tito Cruz, Lynn Deeken, Bill Ehmann, Terry Foster, Christian Halliburton, Sonora Jha, Bill Kangas, Chuck Lawrence, Kristi Lee, Michael Matriotti, Kelly Meduna, Erik Olsen, Roshanak Roshandel, Rob Rutherford, Chris Stipe, John Strait, Bill Taylor

Minutes taken by Rosa Hughes

- I. Review of 2-25-13 Minutes
 - A. Minutes approved with no abstentions
- II. Announcement of Public Safety Forum at 3:00pm
 - A. Based upon Law School incident last week
 - B. Also exploring the broader issue of campus security (lack of safety drills, etc.)
 - C. Vote by AcA to not end meeting early
- III. Theology and Religious Studies Program Review (*Kan Liang, David Powers*)
 - A. Department chair Sharon Suh not present
 - B. Department has developed a specialization in world religions
 - 1. Hired a Catholic ethicist this year
 - 2. Also requested a new faculty line for Islamic studies scholar – may not be approved in this challenging budget year, but strong need for this line in the future
 - C. Decline in enrollment may be related to decline in academic rigor
 - 1. THRS enrollment has always been modest, but the department is large because of Core requirements
 - 2. Students who major in THRS take many 200 level courses, since these Core courses are the majority of the departmental courses
 - 3. Under the new Core, all 200 level courses have the same learning outcomes
 - 4. THRS majors are almost always in classes where the majority of their classmates are not part of the major
 - 5. AcA needs to know if THRS is addressing this issue
 - D. Edits
 - 1. Invite Sharon Suh to next meeting with updated memo
 - 2. Add a comment that undergraduates cannot take graduate courses due to school policy on page 3
 - 3. Ask chair and dean to address the drop in THRS enrollment in comparison to peer institutions
- IV. AcA President's Report from Board of Trustees
 - A. Finances
 - 1. SU is inordinately tuition dependent and our graduate enrollments are down
 - 2. About to begin largest capital campaign ever using the strategic plan to appeal to nontraditional donors and a much larger audience
 - 3. Under the new leadership of VP Connie Kanter, Finance is working to enhance its operation from top to bottom.
 - B. Athletics

1. Men's basketball is not producing revenue at budgeted levels.
 2. Women's basketball is doing well, although Connolly does not fully meet NCAA Division 1 standards
 3. SU is continuing to fund Athletics according to the business plan developed to transition us to Division 1 status
- C. HR presentation
1. Benefits package comparable with peer institutions
 2. SU fringe benefits are being reduced (which will likely result in higher deductibles and lower level of annual subsidy)
 3. Adjustment to the university's retirement benefits are also under consideration (AcA will invite Jerry Huffman to an upcoming meeting for more details)
- D. Online education
1. Focus on two target groups: degree completion for adult learners and graduate/professional programs
 2. Expand software and systems upgrades
 3. Goal to have hybrid/online education in place during AY2014-15 (hybrid is usually approximately 80 online/20 in person, but flexible)
- E. FY14 Budget
1. At the end of the FY14 budget process, every unit of the university did not experience a full 5% reduction
 2. 4.87% tuition increase for undergraduate credits
 3. Public safety will add 8 new positions
 4. Budget Advisory Committee
 - a. BAC representatives from AcA need to determine how often to report back to AcA
 - b. BAC representatives also need to find out how much input they have on budget preparation in the future (may want to include in AcA Bylaws discussion)
- V. Committee Appointments
- A. Galen Trail, Athletics Advisory Board
 1. Approved
 - B. Terry Foster, University Assessment Committee
 1. Approved
 - C. Nominee needed for Budget Advisory Committee
 1. Sean McDowell nominated
 2. Discussion of nominating from a school other than College of Arts and Sciences
 3. BAC representatives will ask Connie Kanter if we can appoint two additional representatives
 - a. If so, we will vote on Sean and another nominee
 - b. If not, we will seek a nominee from College of Science and Engineering
- VI. Executive Session began at 3:20pm