Academic Assembly
February 26, 2018
2:05 – 3:35pm, STCN 130

MINUTES

Present: Rick Block, Terri Clark, Mark Cohan, Marc Cohen, Miles Coleman, Carlos de Mello e Souza, Arie Greenleaf, Leticia Guardiola-Saenz, Kathleen La Voy, Chuck Lawrence, Emily Lieb, Agnieszka Miguel, Michael Ng, Katie Oliveras, Erik Olsen, Steve Palazzo, Tracey Pepper, Colette Taylor, Kirsten Thompson, Travis Tweet, Gregory Silverman

Minutes taken by Rosa Hughes

I. Review 2-12-18 Minutes
- A. Would like to include a comment under the Dean Evaluation item about AcA wanting a greater role in the process
- B. Table vote to next meeting
- C. Proposed amendment: There was also a discussion of having a greater faculty/AcA role in the evaluation process in the future, including a process for sharing the results with faculty

II. Review 1-29-18 Minutes
- A. Correction made to vote count
- B. Approved with no oppositions and one abstention

III. AcA Motion: Subcommittee to Conduct Fact-Finding Regarding the United Way Campaign
- A. Whereas AcA representatives, reporting back from their constituents, have raised concerns about the strategies used by campaign Chairs to solicit contributions to the 2016-17 United Way Campaign,
  And whereas those concerns include questions about how the University and United Way are using SU employees' private information, including tracking who has given and who has not, and whether or not the University is adhering to its own privacy policies,
  We move that a "Subcommittee to Conduct Fact-Finding Regarding the United Way Campaign" of the AcA be established. This Subcommittee would be charged with meeting Administration officials to determine whether University policies designed to protect private employee information were NOT applied, or were applied inadequately during the most recent Campaign. The Subcommittee would also be charged with reporting its findings back to the larger AcA body, which may include suggestions about how University privacy protection policies might be improved.
- B. Discussion
  1. Provost willing to meet with those concerned to review United Way campaign process
  2. Concern with privacy, shaming nature of email, lack of opt-out ability
  3. Concern with who has access to the list of who has/has not donated
  4. Need to review the guidelines for the co-chair and ambassador positions – those who volunteer to monitor who has given and who has not
  5. Motion is for a simple fact finding group to seek out all the pertinent information and then report back to AcA
  6. Suggestion for collegiality and respect in the discussion board, no name-calling
  7. Advocacy body, supposed to advocate for faculty
  8. Should be careful not to narrow our scope too much, AcA had to take the lead on the MRC issue when the administration failed

9. Up to the representatives to determine what issues are important to them
10. Representative, deliberative body with legislative function in essence

C. Vote
   1. Approved with 20 approve, 2 oppose (not present), no abstentions

D. Subcommittee Formation
   1. Mark Cohan, Nalini Iyer, Emily Lieb, Kirsten Thompson

IV. Introduction of International Student Issues (*Dale Watanabe*)

A. Credit Requirements
   1. Albers requires 9 credits per quarter for international graduate students to maintain student immigration status, whereas the university level requirement is 6 credits
   2. There was a subcommittee that looked at this and has recommended to change back to 6 credits for Albers
   3. An issue that comes up with Graduate Student Council
      a. A hardship that students speak about frequently
      b. Some students have to take classes over the summer, depending on program
      c. 9 credits and an internship can be a very heavy load
   4. The requirement is unclear in the federal standard, so it is left up the school/college and program to determine
   5. Fine to switch to 6, programs can determine for themselves if they want to require more

B. General Discussion
   1. Indonesia used to be our main international population, has now switched to mainland China
   2. New international admissions position is tasked with increasing international student populations
   3. Special coding for each program for federal tracking
   4. Retention rate among international students – we do not have good data on this
   5. Majority of international students are transfer students
   6. International Student Center has been contact with ICE, particularly in cases where a student's record is terminated or cancelled in the immigration database

V. College/School Level Governance and Faculty Handbooks

A. High correlation between strength of faculty governance in a school and its curricular proposals
   1. In schools with external accreditation, very clear guidelines about faculty role, processes, curriculum development, etc.
   2. In other schools, lack of handbook laying out governance structure has led to major personnel and curricular issues

B. A college/school handbook is an avenue to express concerns that reach resolution through an established and mutually understood process, whereas in the absence of documents, there can be much uncertainty and anxiety

C. AcA can task each college/school with the development of a handbook

D. Think about issues that have occurred at the college/school level, and how can we think about these in a call for the development of local handbooks

E. Upload college/school handbooks to Canvas

VI. AcA President Report, Discussion, Follow-Ups

A. Online Learning Platforms
   1. A working group on campus is going to propose to Cabinet that we sign a contract with one of the large online vendors that will handle advising, carousel course offerings, marketing of a set of online programs in Albers

2. Major concern that AcA was not consulted in this process
3. Invite Marilyn Crone and Joe Phillips to discuss what is happening (How will this affect faculty workloads, course development, etc.)
4. AcA needs a 2-3 year plan that we can approach the new Provost with, to stop being as reactive and make sure we are included on important decisions at the budget level

B. Deans Evaluation
1. Probably moving to a different consultant firm for the next cycle
2. Emails to faculty in the colleges are coming from unknown senders
3. Three of those interviewed by the Provost are chosen in collaboration with the Dean, with only one fully elected by the faculty – under new process, faculty will be able to put forward two fully faculty-elected interviewees

C. Board of Trustees updates
1. Continuing challenges in Law School
2. Other major enrollment/budget concerns across campus
3. Strict budget, looks stable

D. Upcoming HR issues: compensation, benefits (medical leave, staff council)