

Academic Assembly
October 14, 2019
2:05 – 3:35pm, STCN 130

MINUTES

Present: Felipe Anaya, Sarah Bee, Pat Buchsel, Mimi Cheng, Terri Clark, Marc Cohen, Yancy Dominick, Theresa Earenfight, Nicole Harrison, Nalini Iyer, Angie Jenkins, Shane P. Martin, Margit McGuire, Dylan Medina, Patrick Murphy, Michael Ng, Katie Oliveras, Chris Paul, Russ Powell, Frank Shih, Heath Spencer, Alex Tang, Colette Taylor, Mark Taylor, Kirsten Thompson, Leann Wagele

Minutes taken by Rosa Hughes

- I. Review 10-7-19 Minutes
 - A. Motion to approve
 - 1. 18 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain
- II. Provost Update
 - A. Based on motion at previous AcA meeting, a subgroup of five AcA members met with President Sundborg, Dean of Students James Willette, Director of Women and Gender Studies Theresa Earenfight, and Provost Martin (as moderator)
 - B. President's opening statement
 - 1. Received the letter from Students for Life, responded without consulting the Provost or others in the university community
 - 2. Tried to balance protecting the public Catholic character of SU and honor academic freedom and the wellbeing of our students
 - 3. Realized in hindsight he should have consulted university stakeholders before responding
 - 4. Clarified that this decision applies only to the public website and not to individual actions that faculty or staff make; there will be no retaliation against individual faculty or staff for referring students to Planned Parenthood
 - C. Discussion points
 - 1. We are an educational institution, need to think about how to respond when these issues come up
 - 2. Not isolated to this issue, could involve speakers on campus and other future issues
 - 3. Outside groups that are not friendly to SU or our progressive agenda use this and other issues to deliberately drive a wedge in campus communities
 - 4. The institutional Catholic Church has named Planned Parenthood as a main organization of concern specifically because of abortion
 - 5. The primacy of the role of individual conscience in the way people make decisions is extremely important
 - 6. Many community members, especially LGBTQ and other marginalized groups, feel hurt by the decision
 - D. Pathways forward
 - 1. Review of shared governance procedures, especially when there is a time sensitivity or crisis situation – centering the question: who needs to be consulted and how are decisions communicated?
 - 2. Need for a series of fora to address some of these issues – what does it really mean for us to have the mission that we have as a Catholic university in this time?

3. University leadership could commit to learning more about women's issues and LGBTQ issues
4. Referral/endorsement versus information – as a university, we need policy and guidelines to provide structure for individual faculty and staff on how to handle this
5. Difference between what we publish on the public website and what is communicated via a password-protected intranet
6. We should be figuring this out as a campus community, and not driven by outside groups
7. The decision will not be reversed while we figure this out, all 225 Catholic universities are in agreement on this issue

III. AcA President Update

- A. Agenda priority items set last week will be circulated
- B. AcA Canvas page will be updated soon with documents and recent nominations to committees

IV. Strategic Planning (*Bob Dullea, Stephanie Lewis, Jen Marrone, Katherine Raichle*)

- A. Vision – discussion
 1. The inclusion of the world “global” only one time
 - a. Problematic with our curriculum and situating within the global community (Nicaragua, languages taught, etc.)
 - b. All very insular – need to think about this impact to community and global world
 2. Thought process behind the description “progressive Jesuit and Catholic”
 - a. Intentionally leaning into tension
 - b. Variable understanding of what the word progressive means – we need to explore this further
 - c. Enormous changes to Seattle in the last ten years – what does it mean to be inclusive in a city where only the very wealthy and privileged have access to live?
 3. “Academically distinctive” language
 - a. Does this mean unique in programs offered? Who is this in positionality to? Other Jesuit institutions or other institutions in general?
 - b. We are unique in our integration of Jesuit thought paradigm throughout curriculum
- B. Goal 1 discussion
 1. Change from quarter to semester
 - a. Not a final decision, will be evidence-based, weighing all pros and cons
 - b. Student issues
 - i. If this is posed to students in the undergraduate student survey (winter quarter), would the response to that be considered?
 - ii. Also need to consider graduate students, for whom the semester schedule is typically better with less frequent course/schedule changes
 - iii. Underrepresented students are less represented in quarter system schools
 - iv. Quarter system is very fast
 - c. Other issues
 - i. In a time of limited resources, leverage existing innovative school/college models
 - ii. Seems like a very tight timeline for a proposal to be made (end of 19/20) for a four year rollout – only leaves about 4-5 months for discussion
 - iii. Need to discuss prerequisite policy and specialized curriculum in relation to resource usage

- iv. UCOR is looking forward to receipt of the Strategic Plan and how it might work with the UCOR curriculum
 - v. Suggestion to include the University Core in the first sentence of the Goal
 - 2. Goals 2-5
 - a. Faculty productivity, workload, and expectation needs to be articulated, how this will this align with the Advance grant seems to be missing from the document
 - b. Event center
 - i. Never heard this raised in any community meetings, doesn't sound like it is coming organically from faculty, staff, students
 - ii. If we are facing major challenges, the event center doesn't seem to sit in the same space and appears buried in the document
 - iii. Asked by the Board in May to consider it as part of the Strategic Plan, raised to open campus fora in spring for feedback – document is based upon that feedback
 - c. Other issues
 - i. How to address silo nature of schools/colleges
 - ii. Tension between liberal arts versus career-focused education – need to articulate how to balance these
 - iii. Need to provide trainings and competencies for existing faculty and staff, including better support in addressing issues for students from underrepresented groups – especially students of color
- V.** Committee on Committees Charter Adoption
- A. Motion to approve
 - 1. 14 approve, 1 oppose, 1 abstain
- VI.** University Rank and Tenure Committee (URTC) Update
- A. Overview of proposed changes
 - 1. Recommendation that the URTC be fully administered by AcA and Committee on Committees
 - 2. All positions would be appointed by AcA with final approval by Provost, removing at-large appointments by President/Provost
 - 3. Four year terms for members
 - 4. Proposal to remove the student position
 - a. Personnel committee that makes decisions on employment
 - b. Legal implications, conflict of interest for student to both evaluate through course evaluation process and evaluate through rank and tenure process
 - 5. Review of files for application to full Professor should be done only by full Professors, other reviews can be done by all members
 - B. Full document forthcoming for comment
- VII.** Planned Parenthood Motion (tabled from last meeting)
- A. It was suggested that a leadership group could be formed to develop a plan for several of the items discussed, such as holding open fora, leading policy analysis, and recommending campus communication
 - 1. The Provost volunteered to be part of these efforts, and suggested that the President and Vice Presidents of the AcA, the President of the Staff Council, the Director of the Women and Gender Studies program, the Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, and the Vice President for Student Development could be part of this group
 - 2. This group could also coordinate with campus entities and resources such as the Center for Catholic Thought and Culture, the Center for Jesuit Education, and others

- B. The tabled motion will be revised and circulated to AcA via email/Canvas, for a vote at the next meeting