Academic Assembly
October 21, 2019
2:05 – 3:35pm, STCN 130

MINUTES

Present: Bryan Adamson, Felipe Anaya, Sarah Bee, Pat Buchsel, Mimi Cheng, Terri Clark, Marc Cohen, Clara Cordova, Yancy Dominick, Theresa Earenfight, Nicole Harrison, Nalini Iyer, Angie Jenkins, Kathleen La Voy, Shane P. Martin, 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 and Lindsey Nakatani

I. Review 10-14-19 Minutes
   A. 17 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain
II. Provost Update
   A. Enrollment management
      1. Test-optional admissions
         a. Currently there are over one thousand test-optional colleges and universities, and recently a number of highly-regarded universities have moved to test-optional
         b. Increasing concern about the inherent bias built into standard exams
         c. Need to ask: what do we really gain from SAT and ACT scores?
         d. Some indications that GPA is a more accurate predictor of success in college
         e. Provost and AcA President will convene a working group to consider the issue based on literature and data, then bring a recommendation to AcA
      2. Discussion
         a. Nursing licensure requirements require standardized scores (and other programs may have similar accreditation requirements)
         b. The working group would study this and other considerations, and make an informed recommendation that could include exceptions for accreditation requirements, etc.
   B. Integration of Faculty Services and Human Resources
      1. Pass along any issues/concerns that arise with this transition to the Office of the Provost
      2. Faculty contracts
         a. Revisions to Faculty Handbook and annual operating budget are both approved at the final Board of Trustees meeting of the year (late April/early May), and it does not make sense to issue contracts without these two operational frameworks in place
         b. This year, contracts will be issued just after the final BoT meeting, with all preparatory work done in advance/anticipation of approval
         c. Delay of approximately one-month to one-month-and-one-week from previous date
III. Planned Parenthood Motion
   A. Overview
      1. Three motions: original motion, new motion proposed on Canvas, amendments to original motion proposed via email
      2. Unclear process for voting, and which motion will move forward if all are approved
   B. Original motion

1. Preamble is important to detail what has happened and name concerns
2. First paragraph focuses on the heterogeneity of the university community
3. Concern with the reduction of the services of Planned Parenthood to just abortion – major concern of the students
4. Raises the issue around the identity of the community in the social justice mission, how this contradicts what we are about
5. Specificity of follow up actions is important to include – President was open and amenable to four of the five actions recommended (open fora, review of policy, workshops on related issues, lectures and discussions)
6. Perhaps remove the paragraph on censorship
   a. Censorship issue is an important focus for those working in the Library
   b. Our policy on how the construct of academic freedom is applied to staff is complicated and ambiguous, needs to be worked out as an institution
   c. Word employees is used intentionally to encompass all the people who work here
C. Amended motion circulated via email
   1. Directed to Provost, removes some verbiage
   2. Edits to amended motion, suggested in AcA meeting
      a. The address to the President, Provost, Cabinet, and Board of Trustees is intentional – important for the historical record to inform this wider body – add this address back in
      b. Add to the working group: two students appointed by SGSU and a Staff Council representative in addition to the Staff Council President
      c. Add one sentence to talk about shared governance: "Removal of information and resources for our students does not recognize the autonomy and special character of academic institutions nor the role of faculty in shared governance."
   3. Note that it is best practice for motions, amendments, and discussion to take place on AcA Canvas well in advance of AcA meetings
D. Discussion and vote continued later in meeting
IV. Vote on AcA Appointments
A. STM Working Group
   1. Convening to consider the future structure of STM and its programs
   2. Co-Chairs: Mark Markuly and Donna Teevan
   3. Members: Leticia Guardiola-Saenz, Mark Hearn, Michael Trice, Peter Ely SJ, Jeanette Rodriguez, Jen Tilghman-Havens, Matt Whitlock, Hye-Kyung Kang, Wilson Garone, Kathleen La Voy
   4. Vote via ballot: 18 approve, 0 oppose
B. Board of Trustees Faculty Representatives
   1. Nominees
      - Academic Affairs – Frank Shih (CSE)
      - Finance – Dean Diavatopoulous (ASB)
      - Intercollegiate Athletics Oversight – Chris Paul (CAS)
      - Mission, Inclusion & Culture – Kirsten Thompson (CAS)
      - Brand, Reputation and External Affairs – Sarah Shultz (CAS)
      - Student Development – Misuk Lee (ASB)
      - Investment – Vinay Datar (ASB)
      - Facilities & Technology – Wes Lauer (CSE)
   2. Vote via ballot: 17 approve, 0 oppose

C. Committee on Committees
    1. Charter approved by AcA at previous meeting, now need to form group
    2. Volunteers: Kirsten Thompson, Chris Paul, Michael Ng, Katie Oliveras, Margit McGuire, Russ Powell, Bryan Adamson
    3. Chair TBD, will also be a VP of AcA
D. Faculty Handbook Revision Committee
    1. Call for one AcA-appointed faculty position, three year term
    2. Nominees Marinilka Kimbro (ASB), Oleh Amah (NCS), Teodora Shuman (CSE)
    3. Vote via ballot: Teodora Shuman elected as new AcA-appointed representative

V. Academic Policy Committee (*Andrew Anderson, Jeff Philpott*)
    A. University Core Curriculum Policy (revision)
        1. Need to update program list for newer program and renamed programs
    B. Class Absence for Army ROTC Cadets (new)

VI. Student Planning Presentation (*Joelle Pretty, Patrick Gordon, Sheila Underwood, Andrew Anderson*)
    A. Comprehensive student planning software allows students to plan out their full four years (or other length of degree program)
    B. User-friendly, scales to mobile, easily shared with family
    C. Allows student to use their advising time to focus more on discernment and career planning and less on fitting course requirements into schedule
    D. Registrar will gather information from the students' planning, to better project what sections are needed in which quarters
    E. Will help us be more proactive about classes and classrooms are planned and utilized
    F. Registration function of SU Online is going away
    G. When new software rolls out, students will be required to complete at least one term in advance, but most will want to plan out their whole progression

VII. Planned Parenthood Motion (continued)
    A. Motion including proposed amendments from AcA discussion (above):

To the President, Provost, Cabinet, and Board of Trustees:

Members of Academic Assembly have followed with interest and concern recent actions by President Sundborg that have led Seattle University officials to remove references to Planned Parenthood from certain University web pages. These actions were taken in response to demands by Students for Life of America (SFLA), an outside organization.

While the members of Seattle University community acknowledge and respect the Jesuit ethos and the religious and cultural traditions on which the university was founded, and to which they contribute through their professional endeavors, we also wish to state that we are a diverse and inclusive community of many different faiths and belief systems, including Protestants, atheists, agnostics, Jews, Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, Catholics, and many others. Moreover, many committed Catholics respectfully disagree with the social policies of the Catholic Church around sexuality, contraception, and other matters. SFLA mischaracterizes Planned Parenthood as simply a provider of abortion services when the organization offers a wide range of healthcare services and fulfills a vital social justice mission for women's health.

Removal of information and resources for our students does not recognize the autonomy and special character of academic institutions nor the role of faculty in shared governance.

Academic Assembly has discussed these issues at two weekly meetings and, with the assistance of the Provost, authorized a group of its members to meet with the President, Provost, and Dean of Students.

We now call on the Provost to:

1. *Invite President Sundborg to participate in a series of fora with the Seattle University community of faculty, staff, and students to discuss the issues raised by this matter.*
2. *Convene a working group of the Provost, AcA President and Vice Presidents, the President of the Staff Council, the Director of the Women and Gender Studies program, the Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, the Vice President for Student Development, an additional staff representative, two student representatives, and other stakeholders to review the policies and consultative practices of decision making around these issues and to consult with relevant parties. The working group will be invited to draft a policy to protect the rights of employees in their personal lives and in their job responsibilities when their views may differ from those of the Catholic Church. The working group will bring recommendations for changes back to AcA for wider discussion and a vote.*
3. *Encourage President Sundborg and senior leadership, together with the Jesuit community, to participate in a series of workshops and/or reading groups on WGST and LGBTQ issues relating to gender, sexuality, and identity.*
4. *Begin planning a series of faculty-led lectures and discussions for the wider SU community from a variety of disciplinary perspectives around Catholic, Ignatian, Jesuit and mission-related topics, as well as constitutional and legal issues relating to academic freedom, censorship, and public v. private institutions, and that pertinent faculty with specific research expertise be invited to contribute to such a series.*
5. *Recommend that deleted informational resources on the university website relating to Planned Parenthood be restored, while noting that the provision of such resources does not in any way suggest specific endorsement by the university or the Catholic Church.*
B. Motion to approve amended motion (paper ballot)
   1. 14 approve, 4 oppose