



Academic Assembly Meeting No. 18
Monday, June 5, 2023
2:05 p.m. – 3:35 p.m.
ADAL Stuart T. Rolfe & Zoom

MINUTES

Members Present: Carol Adams, Philip Barclift, Mark Cohan, Douglas Eriksen, Naomi Hume, Nalini Iyer, Angie Jenkins (Staff Council, *ex-officio*), Benjamin Jones-Rice (SGSU, *ex-officio*), Shane P. Martin (Provost, *ex-officio*), Margit McGuire, Carrie Miller, Patrick Murphy, Russell Powell, Bryan Ruppert, Patrick Schoettmer, Frank J. Shih, Gregory Silverman, Phillip Thompson, Michael Trice, Erin Vernon, Glenn Yasuda and Valentina Zamora.

I. Opening Remarks, Frank J. Shih **2:09 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.**

- a. Meeting was called to order at 2:06 p.m. by Academic Assembly President, Frank Shih.
- b. **MOTION** Moved by Frank Shih: “Move to approve the agenda for the June 5, 2023, meeting of the AcA.” Seconded. **Approved.** *Note: Market Equity was intended to go on the agenda.*

II. Conversation with President Peñalver **2:10 p.m. – 3:03 p.m.**

President Peñalver delivered updates to the Assembly and engaged in an open discussion—

- a. Senior leadership hiring: Seattle University has had a successful hiring process for senior leaders, bringing in a strong group of leaders. The search for a new CFO is on-going and it will mark the tenth recent senior leadership hire. Of the ten recent hires, 20% were opportunity hires.
- b. Advancement goals: the Vice President of University Advancement is focusing on hiring and raising funds to advance the institution.
- c. Acceptance rate improvement: The acceptance rate has improved by 10%, dropping to approximately 75%.
- d. Response to projected deficit: The university significantly reduced the deficit without impacting the implementation of the strategic directions.
- e. FY24 highlights: Seattle University is preparing for a new campaign that aims to build the endowment for student financial aid and faculty research excellence. Achieving status as an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI) and Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) will help recruit and unlock federal funds.
- f. Various other topics discussed during the meeting—
 - i. President Peñalver is joining the WAC Commissioner, an SU alumnus, at the upcoming WAC conference.
 - ii. Reflections on curriculum reimagining, the role of Provost Fellows, and the extraordinary faculty engagement.

III. Program Review Committee, Margit McGuire **3:03 p.m. – 3:24 p.m.**

MOTION Moved by Margit McGuire: “I move to affirm updates to the Philosophy program.”
Seconded. **Approved. Unanimously.**

PRC Chair McGuire discussed plans for program approval using the Curriculog system. The goal is to improve and streamline the process for revising and creating programs by providing transparency for faculty to review proposals and data. Over 295 programs and courses were reviewed this year, with a focus on new online modalities. There was also a discussion about the challenges posed by the increasing reliance on adjunct faculty and a need to prioritize hiring tenure-track faculty.

IV. AcA Bylaws, Gregory Silverman **3:24 p.m. – 3:26 p.m.**

Business related to amending the AcA Bylaws will be conducted offline within the next ten days. The Assembly needs a two-thirds vote to recommend the amendments to the Provost.

V. AcA Officer Election, Gregory Silverman **3:26 p.m. – 3:33 p.m.**

The VP for Curriculum nomination was withdrawn, leaving the nomination period open for further candidates. Bryan Ruppert has been nominated for the position, while Patrick Schoettmer will serve out the former VP for Committee's term and run for his own term. According to Robert's Rules of Order, nominations will be closed after the last meeting before the vote, but there is an option to adopt a special rule to extend the nomination period if necessary.

VI. AcA Minute Approval, Frank J. Shih **3:33 p.m. – 3:33 p.m.**

Minute approval will be conducted offline.

VII. Recognition and Appreciations **3:33 p.m. – 3:39 p.m.**

At the end of the meeting, AcA members who will not return in the fall were acknowledged and recognized. Provost Martin expressed gratitude to AcA President Shih for his leadership over the past six years, particularly during challenging times. The Provost emphasized the importance of the AcA as an essential element of shared governance, stating that Seattle University cannot function without the official voice of faculty.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:39 p.m.