

Guests: A. Bosman.

Votes & Actions taken (numbers [n] represent items on original agenda)


[4] VP Finance Search

The Faculty Senate selected three representatives by secret ballot to the VP Finance search committee. Two of the representatives were, by policy, full professors.

[5] Committee Reports

Undergraduate Council (9/10)—Current status of ACE and BA/BS revisions: The Undergraduate Council did not pass the proposed structure of the new ACE program. The matter and all concerns were referred back to the ACE Committee. A revised definition of BA and BS degrees is moving towards completion at the UGC Policy Subcommittee

(5/7 minutes revisited) In voting to affirm the timeline for undergraduate experience elements to be completed, the UGC “NOTED the need to have a project manager moving this forward”. The Senate discussed this suggestion given delays across all elements of the proposal because faculty committees are generally only able to meet at monthly intervals to work on the various projects.

Senators noted that the proposal was not made with a particular individual in mind, and that project management skills should be prioritized (rather than curriculum development skills). Senators also noted that this suggestion highlighted the difference between graduate education, where a graduate dean could fulfill some of the role of moving interconnected projects forward, whereas there is no corresponding role on the undergraduate side. The senators were very concerned that the Senate be involved in reviewing any job description, and that any hire be for the purposes of completing this project, not as a new permanent position.

MOTION: The Faculty Senate REQUESTS that the Provost hire a project manager to support the undergraduate curriculum redesign, and that the Faculty Senate review the job description for that project manager position prior to the job being posted. (T. Goodwin). Seconded, VOTE PASSED.

Academic Operations Council (5/30)—No additional items of note to discuss at Senate.

AU UFO Steering Committee (9/10, 9/25, 11/13, terms of reference)—The AU UFO Steering Committee has approved changes to the Wellness and Diversity outcomes and coordinated those changes with other committees, including UGC (see item #8). The Steering Committee also returned the terms of reference (11/13 vote) document requested by the Senate.

The Senate suggested some minor edits to the terms of reference for clarity. MOTION: “To ACCEPT the AU UFO Steering Committee terms of reference with minor amendments. (Taylor). Seconded, VOTE PASSED.

Graduate Council, Faculty Policy and Development Council, Graduate Faith & Integration, Race and Justice.

No report.
[6] Plans for Undergraduate Curriculum Change: Town Halls
As reported in October 2018, the Senate Chair met with other leaders involved in elements of the broad undergraduate experience changes and agreed to take several actions to include more faculty voices in the conversation. The senate officers will hold two town halls for faculty just before Thanksgiving break in order to better listen to the faculty vision for the undergraduate experience. Senators asked whether this action should have been taken earlier in the process. The officers clarified that the goal was to provide the Senate and involved faculty committees in the reporting line to the Senate with a picture of the faculty vision. Hopefully, the result of this process will be a more informed discussion of plans in light of vision. The officers tried to design the questions to help in identifying themes that comprise this vision, rather than focusing on the details that committees are still working out.

[7] Component of Faculty Annual Evaluation: Faculty Activity Report for Professional Learning
As part of the Senate-initiated development of a new faculty annual evaluation process, the faculty asked for a means to document the full spectrum of faculty activity, including professional development. The proposed Professional Learning faculty activity report is a first attempt to fulfill that part of the report. The goal, as with other components of the faculty annual evaluation, is to not only review the previous years’ work, but also to help faculty build the promotion and tenure portfolio. The request from the Effective Teaching and Learning Council by way of the FPDC is for a pilot of the proposed form.

The greatest concern from Senators was that there is a statement about an expectation of 8 hours annually. Although these hours are covered by attendance at Faculty Institute, there was some concern from senators that this might add to workload. However, other senators noted that this process could help to demonstrate professional development with attendance at Faculty Institute is precluded by other responsibilities.

Senators also noted that this does increase a reporting requirement, and inquired as to whether a monetary bonus would be available as is current practice with the Research and Creative Scholarship faculty activity report. This would require a separate budget line, and is a goal, but is not currently funded. Several other issues regarding language and clarity about what was to be counted were noted and referred to the ETLC for modification prior to piloting.

MOTION: “To REQUEST that the Effective Teaching and Learning Council pilot the Faculty Activity Report for Professional Learning as part of the 2019 Faculty Annual Evaluation.” (Ade-Oshifogun). Seconded, VOTE PASSED.

The AU UFO Steering Committee received a request from the Wellness Steering Committee to modify the Wellness Outcomes (formerly the Holistic Wellness and Life Skills outcomes) and a request from the Institutional Diversity & Inclusion Action Council to modify the Diversity Outcomes. The Steering Committee coordinated discussion of these revisions with other committees, and recommended the revisions to the Senate.

MOTION: “To APPROVE changes to Wellness Outcomes in the AU Unified Framework of Outcomes.” (Lim). Seconded, VOTE PASSED.

MOTION: “To APPROVE changes to Diversity Outcomes in the AU Unified Framework of Outcomes.” (Lim). Seconded, VOTE PASSED.

Senate Discussion & Announcements
[1] Worship & Prayer
Worship (S. Badenas). Prov. 30:8. We have many things to be thankful to God for.

The ETLC continues to work on vetting candidates for the Augsburger Award. A manageable and robust pool of candidates has submitted material. The ETLC is humbled by the quality of faculty at Andrews University and the excellent documentation that the candidates provided.

There was good attendance at the faculty technology showcase on November 13th. This was the last group training for the semester. Across multiple sessions this semester, not only faculty are coming to our sessions, but so are people from off-campus and outside of AU.

[Additional Report] Elev8 Fundraising Priorities
The university has new strategy for fundraising priorities called Elev8. It includes developing endowments for student scholarship and endowments for faculty chairs. The Senate has discussed the importance of the latter.

[Additional Report] Disparities in Faculty Travel and Professional Development Funding
On November 12, the Senate officers sent a letter to the Provost outlining concerns about disparities in faculty travel and professional development budgets across academic units. The officers were especially concerned that junior faculty in units that have lower funding because of budget cuts.

Next Faculty Senate meeting: December 12, 2018.