



Faculty Senate 2019–2020

MINUTES: February 19, 2020

Whirlpool Room, Chan Shun Hall

6:00–8:00 pm

H. Ferguson, Chair; R. Wells, Recording Secretary

Present: S. Badenas, K. Bailey, G. Chi, A. Coria-Navia, G. Doss, H. Ferguson, B. Gibson, T. Goodwin, G. Gregorutti, B. Henry-Saturné, J. Lim, B. Maguad, J. Markovic, S. Marques, D. Penno, M. Pittman, K. Reiner, D. Taylor, R. Wells, X. Xu

Regrets/absent: B. Ade-Oshifogun, B. Dent, C. Gane, O. Glanz, K. Hall, D. Habenicht, P. Lyons, M. Murray, R. Orrison, D. Randall, C. Stuart

Guests: C. Arthur, A. Bosman, S. Henson, L. Carroll (Staff Senate Representative)

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

[2] Minutes of January 15, 2020 Senate Meeting. MOTION: To approve the minutes as presented (R. Wells). Seconded; **VOTE PASSED.**

[4] Council/Committee Reports (J. Lim)

Undergraduate Council (2/3):

--ACE committee has a website: andrews.edu/employees/committees/ace

Graduate Council (none; only agenda from 2/12)

Academic Operations and Policy Council (12/9):

--nothing to report

Faculty Policy & Development Council (none)

AUUFO Steering Committee (2/4):

--discussed rewording outcome two to accommodate graduate programs with varying levels of inter/intradisciplinary connections

--present to colleges for feedback by graduate faculty

--Senate members should make sure that grad faculty show up when AU UFO is on the agenda

LearningHub Ad Hoc Committee (1/15):

--brainstorm around 6 assigned tasks; survey drafted for campus grad and undergrad students

--benchmarking data to be collected from peer institutions; may be difficult to get details of specific requirements from peer institutions

--excellent response levels from student survey (N = 585)

--membership: Krista Cooper, Carol Rossman, Michael Gayle, Kristin von Maur, David Randall (one is a non-user)

Race and Justice (none)

[5] 2020-2021 Academic Calendar Changes (C. Arthur)

The provost shared how the first day of classes was tight on Jan 6 because offices were not open long before registration, and 2021 was scheduled to be even worse. Principle statements were made to guide the future. Fall is set already for 2021, but in the future will begin the last Monday in August. Spring semester will never start sooner than Jan 6, so 2021 will start Jan 11, and graduation will be a week later.

[6] Free Speech and Academic Freedom (C. Arthur)

The provost noted that AU is totally committed to academic freedom, and if the faculty are challenged, the university stands behind them. University legal counsel belongs to faculty as well, including issues of grading that come up often. Working policy contains a strong statement to this regard, but does not address social media. The provost noted that

faculty can bring up interesting and controversial topics, but only if they are one's expertise, or academic freedom will not cover that. Working policy protects research from interference of publication, as well as faculty hires, and faculty search committee decisions.

Discussion involved changing the language in working policy to include women faculty, as well as noting that tenure gives more freedom to pursue truth unencumbered. Faculty are free to share reasoned beliefs or opinions, but not to speak with authority or an agenda, unless it is an area of expertise.

A social media policy is in the works, involving faculty and students, and will be sent to Senate for approval. For example, the decision to amplify something on Twitter or FaceBook is protected under free speech, but only with civil discourse. It is very difficult to deal with and create expectations regarding social media, so the focus is on self-regulation.

[7] Liberal Arts Council (S. Henson)

The liberal arts support all programs with broad education and creative analysis, as well as critical thinking, what it means to be human and follow Jesus in this rapidly changing world. LAC will integrate, innovate, advocate, and communicate the vision of broad education, by strengthening the core, marketing, working with alumni mentors, supporting departmental ACE teachers, etc. Another goal is to move away from high degrees of specialization and silos, to see the context of disciplines within the broad world.

The LAC presented the proposal of the terms of reference (sent to Senators a week in advance) as well as the following council members:

Humanities

Sonia Badenas
Monique Pittman
Karin Thompson
Rahel Wells

Social Sciences

Desiree Davis
Oystein LaBianca

Sciences and Mathematics

Anthony Bosman
Shandelle Henson
Tom Goodwin

Professional

Oliver Glanz (will also represent graduate programs)

The LAC desires to report to the Senate, because of the representation and responsibility across schools and including grad schools. The constitution allows for reorganization of the committees reporting to Senate without revising the constitution, and the LAC has full administrative support.

MOTION: To approve the LAC terms of reference and council membership as presented, with the proposed edits 1) to cycle between music and art membership every 3 years along with other balancing representation, and 2) to divide membership into 1, 2, and 3 year terms to allow for continuity (T. Goodwin). Seconded; **VOTE PASSED.**

[8] New UGC Senate representative

The person needs to be a voice for the Senate, providing clarity in representing what happened, and instructing the Senate when clarification from UGC minutes are needed. By consensus, the Senate agreed to ask Duane Habenicht to fill this role, as he already sits on UGC.

[9] Health Benefits Requirements

Various faculty and staff have expressed concern about getting the forms in on time, for a variety of reasons. Staff Senate asked HR to delay the deadline, and increase communication about who has not yet completed the requirements. Only the second request was able to be fulfilled, in order to meet the open enrollment time. Senators would like to be informed about what ASR will do with the personal information collected, and would like a separate town hall for all employees, to cover issues like our philosophy of healthcare coverage.

[10] Senate initiatives

The Senate chair noted that the senate has most recently dealt primarily with issues that arise, in a more reactionary sense. She reminded senators to bring suggestions for growth areas and initiatives that benefit faculty, to be discussed at the next meeting, postponed due to the lengthy previous discussions. In the mean time, Senate Executive committee will be viewing a webinar on senate processes.

Senate Discussion & Announcements

[1] Worship & Prayer: (H. Ferguson)

The senate chair shared how her grad students are taking comprehensive exams tomorrow, and feel that the “sky is falling.” She has encouraged them to care what people think, but not too much, and to find a balance. Courage means relying on one’s safety net, the people who can give us a reality check from our own criticism and cynicism. Praise of one another is so important.

[3] Effective Teaching and Learning Council and Center for Teaching and Learning (A. Coria-Navia)

The Faculty Technology showcase highlighted using tools for assessment, bringing awareness not so much a “how-to.” Those presenting are there to help and support, even willing to come to the office of any faculty member. The collaboration with DLIT was also mentioned, and faculty are willing to share formally as well. The AU TLC on March 26 is the most important event of the year, with sessions kept to a minimum so that the keynote at 4:30 in HPAC will be well attended. The focus is on strategies to recover bandwidth, caring for each other and ourselves. CEU credits will be given, as well as co-curricular credit for students. In order to have program materials, everyone needs to register 2 weeks in advance, although the conference is free with the help of Berrien Springs public schools and professional development. The Faculty Book club is also continuing next week, though one had to register and attend the January session.

[11] Senate elections

In March, Senate elections will begin, and self-nomination is acceptable for those who wish to be a voice for faculty in the coming years. Senators whose terms end include: D. Taylor, K. Bailey, R. Wells, D. Randall, M. Murray, B. Gibson, B. Magaud, D. Habenicht, A. Coria-Navia, H. Ferguson, B. Ade-Oshifogun, O. Glanz, C. Gane.

Next Faculty Senate meeting: March 25, 2020.