

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES
February 6, 2017

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Academic Senate, held on February 6, 2017, was called to order at 3:00 pm by Xan Johnson, Senate President. The meeting was held in the Health Sciences Education Building, Alumni Hall.

Present: Shundana Yusaf, Sarah Hanners, Brenda Scheer, Robert Allen, Todd Zenger, Dianne Harris, Alberta Comer, Olga Baker, Rajeev Balasubramonian, Chuck Dorval, Mathieu Francoeur, Sudeep Kanungo, Hanseup Kim, Ken Monson, John Regehr, Denny Berry, Michael Chikinda, Michael Cottle, Stacy Manwaring, Jim Martin, Julie Metos, Susan Naidu, Nelson Roy, Les Podlog, James Anderson, Karin Baumgartner, Disa Gambera, Eric Hinderaker, Lex Newman, Adrian Palmer, Terry Kogan, Tom Lund, John Bramble, Alicia Brillon, Julie Barkmeier-Kraemer, Nadia Cobb, Julio Facelli, Mia Hashibe, Katherine Kendall, Antoinette Laskey, Maureen A. Murtaugh, Ravi Ranjan, Brad Rockwell, Robert A. Stephenson, Thomas Winter, David Dinter, Paul Jewell, Lauren Clark, Sara Simonsen, Lynn Hollister, Donald Blumenthal, Randy Dryer, Joel Brownstein, Tommaso de Fernex, Yekaterina Epshten, Thomas Richmond, Pearl Sandick, Michael Shapiro, Jennifer Shumaker-Parry, John Sperry, Andrejs Treibergs, Adrienne Cachelin, Wade Cole, Thomas Cova, Korkut Erturk, Duncan Metcalfe, Paul White, Zhou Yu, Edmund Fong, Jason Castillo, Joanne Yaffe, Caroline Li, Zach Zundel, Zach Marquez, Robert Coffman, Rachel Petersen, Carley Herrick, Sabrina Hancock, Jake Knight, Kyndle Pardun, Connor Roach, Jack Bender

Absent: Elena Asparouhova, Brian Cadman, Adam Meirowitz, Jeff Nielsen, David Plumlee, Mark Durham, Leticia Alvarez, Yongmei Ni, Xiaoyue Liu, Ning Lu, Joe Marotta, Nadja Durbach, Avery Holton, David Hill, Per Gesteland, John T. Langell, Frederick Strathmann, Ravi Chandran, Andrea Bild, Baodong Liu, Lina Svedin, Mary Beth Vogel-Ferguson, Lauren Adams, Madison Day, Ashley Wilcox, Edwin Lin, Caleb Hoffman

Ex-Officio: Bill Johnson, Robert Flores, Xan Johnson, Paul Mogren, Margaret Clayton, David Pershing, Ruth Watkins

Excused with proxy: Luke Leither, Linda Tyler

Excused: Vivian Lee, Kevin Yang, John Funk, Melonie Murray, Sean Lawson, Nicole Mihalopoulos, David Goldenberg, Dmytro Pesin

Others: Greg Hatch, Dan Witt

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for January were approved with a motion by Jim Anderson. Motion passed unanimously.

Consent Calendar

The current list of appointments and resignations dated February 6, 2017 were approved with a motion by Jim Anderson and second by Joanne Yaffe. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Committee Report

Mardie Clayton said that everything seen by the Executive Committee in its previous meeting would be seen by the Senate today.

Request for New Business

Liz Winter, Sherrie Hayashi, and Lori McDonald passed out new tear-off cards that will help U faculty, staff, and students in case of reported sexual misconduct.

Report from Administration

President Pershing gave a report regarding the university administration's recent activities. The legislative session is the main priority for administration this month. U administration has testified before the Higher Education Joint Appropriations Committee, to talk about the importance of compensation, funding market demand and growth for the university, and the success of student retention (90% first to second year retention) and graduation rate (65%, the highest in the state). U administrators also testified before the capital facilities committee on the topic of the Medical Education building; the U is asking the state for \$50 million in funding for the building. Other news included that the Bob and Cathy Goff Executive Education Building groundbreaking took place last week. President Pershing also addressed the status of foreign faculty, students, and staff in light of the recent White House executive order restricting travel into the US. The U is reaching out to those affected by the order. Ruth Watkins explained further about the U's commitment to its role as an international institution. A communication was sent to international faculty, students, and staff immediately and was proactive in alerting them to resources available to them and actions they should take. There will be a campus rally on Thursday, February 9, in support of the U's international presence. The U has been successful in diversity initiatives related to students and faculty, and the U will be working with the Division of Workforce Services in the state to create yearlong apprentice employment opportunities to increase staff diversity on campus.

Report from ASUU

Jack Bender gave a report on ASUU's activities. The Class of 2016's senior class gift was directed toward the Counseling Center and the Mindfulness Clinic. A total of \$12,500 was allocated for the Mindfulness Clinic, for new couches, computers, and updates for the center. The money has yet to be spent, but the Clinic is collecting more funding for a full renovation. Student body presidents across the country are working on promotion of mental health on campus. There is a bill in the state legislature to promote mental health in Utah. ASUU will release a video in the upcoming weeks about the extent of the problem, and how the universities across the state are working to make a change in this area. Recommendations show that at least five to seven more counseling centers are needed across the state. A bill with a funding request for more FTE will be proposed at next year's legislative session.

Notice of Intent

No items of intent.

Debate Calendar

Patricia Hanna, Hank Liese, and John Bartley presented the proposal for new Policy 6-321 governing Tenured Faculty Reviews, and accompanying revisions of Policies 6-303 and 2-005. An earlier draft was presented in January. The version proposed today has been refined through further consultation since January. As compared to the existing Policies the major changes of the policy are a) shifting the process into the hands of faculty members as opposed to administrators and b) moving the schedule up so that salary decisions may be made following the review process.

Motion was made by Joanne Yaffe to approve the policy changes and forward to the Board of Trustees. Motion seconded by Chuck Dorval. Motion passed unanimously.

Information and Recommendations Calendar

The following items were presented for the information and recommendations of the Academic Senate:

- Ruth Watkins and Mary Parker presented information regarding student enrollment management on campus, which includes recruitment, entry, retention, and completion. The U has improved outreach and recruitment. Undergraduate admissions applications have increased dramatically in the past year. The U is reaching out earlier to potential students, starting prior to their senior year in high school. The campaign was particularly targeted to women and minorities; applications for both demographic groups have increased substantially following these efforts. Another key effort is bringing more potential students on campus for campus tours. Other areas for improvement include increasing numbers of out-of-state students, increasing FAFSA completion rates, and reducing the number of potential students lost to other in-state or regional institutions. Affordability has been identified as an issue that affects whether admitted students choose to attend the U, as opposed to other in-state and regional schools. Mary Parker and Ruth Watkins are asking for faculty support on events and communication to help commit admitted students.
- Katie Ullman presented reports of the seven-year Graduate Council reviews for the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, the Division of Physician Assistant Studies, and the Division of Public Health.
- Todd Zenger presented a proposal for the new Goff Strategic Leadership Center. The center has been provisionally approved by central administration. It will promote research, support curricular initiatives in various degree programs, and develop executive programs and trainings focused on strategic leadership, with the aim for providing revenue for the new Goff Executive Education building. The administration's decision to approve establishment on a provisional basis (rather than seeking permanent status from the outset) is due to a tight timeline for the donor funding. As per the rules applicable for provisional establishment of a center/ institute/ or bureau, once it has been provisionally approved on an expedited basis by the administration, then within three years a proposal of permanent status for the center will come back through the Executive Committee and Senate for full approval.

New Business

No new business.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Maddy Oritt