Academic Senate Meeting Minutes

1908 Smith, MVS Decision Making Center

Tuesday, February 9, 2016, 2:30-4:30

Attendees: Adams, Virgil; Adler, Mary; Alamillo, Jose; Aloisio, Simone; Andrzejewski, Susan; Aquino, Bryn; Banuelos, Selenne; Berg, Gary; Berman, Michael; Bieszczad, A.J.; Bourgeois, Michael; Buchanan, Merilyn; Buhl, Geoff; Burriss, Catherine; Carswell, Sean; Clark, Stephen; Davis-Smith, LaSonya; de Oca, Beatrice; Dean, Michelle; Delaney, Colleen; Delgado, Jasmine; Dilly, Geoff; Doll, Catherine; Downey, Dennis; Elliott, Jesse; Evans Taylor, Genevieve; Flores, Cynthia; Francois, Marie; Frisch, Scott; Gill, Nancy; Gillespie, Blake; Grier, Jeanne; Hampton, Philip; Hannans, Jaime; Hartung, Beth; Hoffmann, Debra; Hunt, Travis; Hutchinson, Gayle; Isaacs, Jason; Kelly, Sean; Klompien, Kathleen; Leafstedt, Jill; Leonard, Kathryn; Luna, Jennie; Matera, Carola; Matjas, Luke; McThomas, Mary; Meriwether, Jim; Monsma, Brad; Murphy, Paul; Nevins, Colleen M; Perchuk, Alison; Pereira, Monica; Perry, Jennifer; Salazar, Christina; Smith, Christina; Soenke, Melissa; Soltys, Michael; Stratton, Stephen; Thoms, Brian; Veldmann, Brittnee; Vose, Kim; Wagner, Billy; Wakelee, Dan; Weis, Chuck; White, Annie; Wood, Greg; Wyels, Cindy; Yudelson, John.

1. Approval of the Agenda
   1. J. Grier welcomed senators to the first Senate meeting of the semester; meeting called to order at 2:33pm; agenda was approved with no objections.
2. Approval of the Minutes of December 1, 2015
   1. Meeting minutes were approved with no objections.
3. Report from the Provost (Hutchinson)
   1. G. Hutchinson: completed DAA Strategic Plan, shared link with senators and invited them to visit;
   2. Reviewed Provost website and highlighted link to newsletter; archive is now available for past newsletter issues;
   3. Referenced new tenure-track positions, 14 out of 15 searches successful last term, shared list for AY16-17; also shared recruitment dates of Feb. 25-26 and Mar. 3-4; B. Hartung confirmed and added that we have seven searches underway;
   4. Diversity study: working hard to improve the diversity of our faculty ranks; shared pie graphs on increasing diversity trends; HR manages the survey source data; the work we’re doing is starting to pay off, encouraged all search committees to check with B. Hartung to help increase diversity in new hires; total of 156 candidates over the last four years
   5. Budget: with an estimate of only ~60 FTES for AY16-17, we aren’t going to get much additional funding; good news is that we will still be able to search for 15 new tenure track positions next year;
   6. Fiscal Policy Committee (FPC): met with FPC in January; shared slide with senators on budget calendar dates, as collaborated with FPC;
   7. Restructuring timeline: committee will meet this Friday, where conversations will take place to form optimal strategies on divisional restructuring;
   8. Welcomed M. Adler with congratulations on her new Associate Dean position; also congratulations to K. Carey on accepting a Provost position at University of Alaska Southeast in Juneau; search for AVP of Enrollment Management is currently underway;
   9. Academic Master Plan (AMP): received a phone call from Chris Mallon at the Chancellor’s Office (CO), who noted that our AMP did not meet CO standards and needed revisions; G. Hutchinson called upon D. Wakelee to work with C. Mallon to formulate these recommended changes; confident that changes in AMP process will be made as we work towards restructuring;
   10. D. Wakelee: Senate approved the AMP at the December meeting; received several informative feedback items from C. Mallon regarding the compliance of our AMP with CO standards; for example, five years from the date that an addition is first made on the calendar, it then has to come off if inactive; another change is that the Trustee’s Office does not accept name changes in the way that we had submitted them, using the example of our switch from Computer Engineering to Mechatronics; C. Mallon is planning to come back to campus this semester, D. Wakelee strongly recommend that those who want to build a new program make plans to solicit her guidance.
   11. Question from A.J. Bieszczad: what happens, then, to Mechatronics – answer from D. Wakelee is that it’s still on the list, but we’re now working to shorten the time of approval;
4. Report Statewide Senators (Aloisio and Yudelson)
   1. S. Aloisio update of budget – the 1% FTES growth is system-wide; the education budget link will be coming in the next Senate newsletter; 9% General Fund budget next year, 6% projected next year; this is good news relative to Gov. Brown’s 5-5-4 target, which we have been above; the link is handy because we’re able to see how much money each campus raised and where they raised it from; an example from CI is that 5% of our alumni are giving back;
   2. S. Aloisio reported on lobbying, which is in progress to lobby the legislature for more money; at the statewide meetings they talked about lobbying at the local level, so if you are interested in helping out in this effort, please contact myself or J. Yudelson.
5. Report from CFA President (Griffin)
   1. S. Aloisio on behalf of J. Griffin (who had class at 3pm); the strike dates have been announced; if an agreement isn’t reached, then faculty will have a five-day strike on April 13-15 and April 18-19; currently at impasse, Fact Finding Report at end of month, then 10-day blackout period; management can then make another best / final offer, and/or faculty can withhold services (i.e. strike);
   2. J. Yudelson announced that there will be forthcoming information on an all-faculty meeting to help answer questions amid strike potential.
6. Report from the Senate Chair (Grier)
   1. J. Grier added to G. Hutchinson’s and D. Wakelee’s AMP update, in that Senate will have the revised/updated AMP as a consent item on our next agenda;
   2. Presidential search: J. Grier, S. Aloisio, and C. Wyels are your representatives; in-person interviews will happen on Feb. 22nd; then Board of Trustee’s meeting on Mar. 8-9, where a decision will be made; G. Hutchinson clarified that an announcement will be made on Mar. 9th regarding who our next President will be;
   3. New Trustee Chair will be Rebecca Eisen; currently trying to arrange a meeting with Senate Exec;
   4. Informed senators to be on the lookout for the academic calendar survey; this represents a move to go to a perpetual calendar to last us through 2030; 3 options for Fall (1: keep as is, 2: having a Fall break at Thanksgiving, 3: two days in Week 9, then having the Wednesday off before Thanksgiving); there will be a wide distribution on this survey, as this calendar also affects staff, students, housing, etc.;
   5. Special election in progress for a Senate Exec at-large position—one semester replacement (Spring 2016).
7. Continuing Business Items
   1. SP 15-04 Policy on Golden Four General Education Courses (GE)
      1. J. Grier: recalled that GE Committee took the comments made in Senate, made revisions displayed here today;
      2. G. Buhl: mainly complies with E.O. 1100 to set a minimum requirement for Golden Four (A1, A2, A3 and B3); recalled that S. Aloisio had a good idea to add the Golden Four as an enrollment requirement so that it can be accomplished earlier in a student’s career, and thus avoiding some of the potential penalties; G. Buhl further noted that the minimum grade requirement enforced next year, but the enrollment requirement starts in the following academic year, AY17-18;
      3. VOTE on SP 15-04: 48 YES – 3 NO – 2 ABSTAIN
8. New Business Items
   1. Policy on Conducting MPP Searches
      1. J. Grier called for motion to hear policy; G. Wood motioned, second by M. Francois;
      2. J. Meriwether introduced policy, cited an example scenario where we could hire a new dean for the school of education, but we wouldn’t know anything about it except for one member on the search committee; current policy does not indicate how this committee member is selected; also no open forums, nor informational sessions to inform campus of such searches;
      3. A. Perchuk asked if we could add an explanation in the policy as to what the definition of MPP is; senators held further discussion as to what this definition is; agreement that it should be added to this policy;
      4. P. Hampton noted that last year it did say that Senate Exec selects the faculty member; also observed that the last blurb is almost verbatim compared to last policy (i.e. Composition of MPP Searches);
      5. B. Hartung added that MPP = Management Personnel Plan; G. Hutchinson added that MPP = Management Personnel Program; G. Wood observed that it says both “Plan” and “Program” on the website; J. Grier confirmed that we’ll look this up to ensure accuracy;
      6. A. Perchuk asked if it would make sense to have a combined policy that includes the composition MPP policy and this one; J. Meriwether recalled that there was discussion about this, but that there is some complexity in actually implementing this;
   2. Special Report: Senate Restructuring
      1. J. Grier summarized that Senate Restructuring Task Force I (STF-I) study reflected that majority of senators wanted to move to a representative senate model; what we have here are two models for consideration; main difference between models are the number of people in the constituent groups; another suggestion was that committee chairs would be good to have on Senate Exec; further noted that staff is now organizing into a staff council, and they will ask for a representative to be at Senate;
      2. S. Alosio noted that we’ll have to change our constitution and our by-laws; we’ll need to first vote to allow for a representative model, currently it’s a Senate of the Whole; timeline is that we’d like to bring this as a first reading item March 1st, second reading on Mar. 29th; at the Mar. 29th meeting we’d look to change the by-laws; framed similar to the categories from our RTP committee i.e. an equal number of representatives from each of our constituents;
      3. Question from C. Weis on what the process was for how did you decide the ones that got four people – S. Alosio answered in order to have enough representation for each committee; also to ensure service opportunities for faculty; in this model being a senator would involve service on one of those committees; but, the committees would also include non-senators;
      4. K. Leonard asked what happens if you really like one model and don’t like the other model, how are you supposed to vote – J. Grier answered that this was developed from the statewide structure model;
      5. A.J. Bieszczad asked how flexible is this, is it just the numbers or is it the model itself – noted that he participated and favored a U.S. constitution model, where each program has a representative and then a popular vote from there; used an example of a say, a new engineering program, who would then have a right to representation – S. Aloisio answered that this could still occur with just a by-laws change, so there is flexibility;
      6. P. Hampton observed that statewide academic senate does not review courses, but what he’s seeing is that in the Academic Affairs group that this is a large undertaking, especially with the inclusion of GE and Curriculum Committee;
      7. C. Burriss asked if there is anything that speaks to the non-senate committee members on here – J. Grier answered not yet, we’re still at the draft stage; S. Alosio added that a main concern was service opportunity for faculty;
      8. B. Gillespie observed that there is a potential hierarchy here in what is viewed as “good service”; S. Aloisio agreed;
      9. G. Dilly asked if there are term limits for senators; J. Grier added that a two-year term has been indicated, but not a term limit / how many consecutive terms could be held, agreed it’s a good point to add; J. Grier further added that a senate chair for one-year is not enough, would like to see a multi-year term that is repeatable;
      10. S. Aloisio suggested to please come to a brown bag discussion on these points; B. Veldmann asked about when the brown bags might be – J. Grier answered in the next few weeks;
      11. A.J. Bieszczad suggested that it would be helpful to know what the representation is before we vote to amend the constitution; S. Aloisio added that we can vote either for representative model or not, or to also keep it as Senate of the Whole;
      12. K. Vose asked how many tenure-track folks do we have – answer from multiple senators = 122 tenure track; B. Hartung added there are 268 lecturer WTUs, B. Veldmann added that this represents over 400 individual lecturers;
      13. A question arose about teaching administrators – S. Aloisio noted that this did not fit into the STF-I model groups; J. Grier further noted that the will of Model B would not allow a vote but ex-officio positions are an option;
      14. J. Grier thanked everyone for their feedback, please stay tuned for further announcements.
9. Intent to Raise Questions
   1. Reviewed one question from C. Wyels, as answered by J. Gormley; answer is that the study is just getting organized and has not launched (J. Grier will follow up in another week to stay on this);
   2. A.J. Bieszczad referenced his emailed question, i.e. wondering whether the School of Education is thinking about education teachers in computer science, due to recent reports of the demand for computer science courses in high schools; J. Grier offered to forward this report to the interim dean for the school of education for further review;
   3. G. Wood asked what are the major differences between the last DAA Strategic Plan and the new one
   4. V. Adams asked when was the last time we failed to make quorum; J. Grier referenced a study by D. Daniels referencing start times and quorums, will have him follow-up;
   5. A.J. Bieszczad asked for suggestions on what to do next with K. Carey’s departure, and how this will impact unit restructuring – G. Hutchinson answered that if we are able to complete the restructuring conversation, then we’ll know what we’re looking at in terms of the job descriptions; at the moment we’re going to wait; offered thanks to M. Buchanan, who has agreed to remain as interim Dean of the School of Ed, through December.

10. Reports from Standing Committees (*As Needed*)

Faculty Affairs Committee

* P. Hampton: working on revising SRT instrument as a final instrument, holding brown bags; evaluation of chairs also in progress

Fiscal Policies

* C. Burriss summarized committee’s ongoing and extensive work, amid very little money available to divvy up campus wide in the FY17 budget, with a 61 new FTES target allotment (as announced earlier). The budget request instructions process incorporated the historical and contextual information requested by FPC last year. Some of this information was incorporated in budget requests, notably the last three years of staffing. This year’s FPC has reviewed that data and will recommend that DAA staffing concerns be a priority. We now have data showing that the faculty-staff ratio in Academic Affairs is abysmal, and declining. As FTES and faculty hires have been increasing, staffing in DAA has been decreasing. (Other divisions’ staffing levels have been increasing or steady.) Spreadsheet available on request. Also in reviewing staffing we have raised some questions about return on investment in areas charged with bringing resources into the University. The FPC is now poised to review Division-level requests, which should include more of the information that the previous FPC had sought.
* K. Leonard added: We are also pursuing the travel funding issue, which highlights two larger concerns. One is, what is/should be the expectation of research support on our campus? The other has to do with the very short time administrators stay in a position (nationwide provost average is about 2.5 years). When compromises or plans are made with an existing administrator, how can we urge a future administrator to fulfill a predecessor’s promises? And if we can’t, how can we, in good faith, negotiate compromises and plans?

Student Academic Policies and Procedures

* Working on meeting to comply with Executive Orders and few other items.

Curriculum Committee

* B. Gillespie noted that they’re on target to complete review of proposals; we’ve been thinking of restructuring in Curriculum Committee as well, key ideas are: 1) the collapse of academic planning committee; 2) massive problem of proposal monitoring and shepherding; 3) inclusion of a member of administration in the process of shepherding of proposals; 4) thinking of academic planning process as meaningful and streamlined

General Education

* G. Buhl announced that on Thursday we’re going to look at how GE credit is awarded for coursework conducted outside of our university; we’re going to circulate drafts to chairs for feedback; then we’ll look at course articulation, etc.

Committee on Committees

* C. Delaney announced nomination period for one semester at-large senate executive member runs through this Thursday for an At-Large Senate Exec position for Spring 2016 semester

Committee on Centers and Institutes

* No report

Professional Leave Committee

* S. Stratton noted that they met this morning and discussed WTU release for exceptional service to students

Mini-Grant Review Committee

* J. Perry recalled that the committee changed the deadline to be earlier in the academic year to allow for decisions about course releases in time for programs to make their decisions about course staffing for the following year; our committee has already met several times to review applications and we expect to conclude our deliberations soon

1. Reports from Other Committees/Centers on Campus
   1. S. Aloisio announced IRA surplus and application deadline of March 1st;
   2. K. Leonard on behalf of S. Kelly, announced that if you have ideas for OLAS grants, please send them his way.
2. Announcements
   1. J. Grier noted that if you have any announcements, please send them in order to be included in the Senate newsletter;
   2. T. Hunt announced nominations currently going on for Legacy Awards;
   3. M. Bourgeois: NSSE survey on Tuesday assessing freshman and senior experiences on campus; it’s voluntary, and each student will have their own unique link; BSSE looks at their beginnings and their expectations, then it’s compared with the NSSE for their actual results at the senior level;
   4. B. Hartung announced “Reimagining the First Year Experience,” where CI was selected to be one of 44 institutions selected for this; we’ll be able to take a look at our data and how we can use it for improvements;
   5. B. Hartung further announced that you will all be getting a call for the Presidential Award nominations;
3. Adjourn
   1. Motion to adjourn by C. Burriss, second by G. Wood – meeting adjourned at 4:10pm.