

Academic Assembly
April 23, 2018
2:05 – 3:35pm, STCN 130

MINUTES

Present: Rick Block, Pat Buchsel, Terri Clark, Mark Cohan, Marc Cohen, Miles Coleman, Carlos de Mello e Souza, Allison Gibbons, Arie Greenleaf, Nalini Iyer, Kathleen La Voy, Chuck Lawrence, Emily Lieb, Michael Ng, Katie Oliveras, Erik Olsen, Steve Palazzo, Tracey Pepper, Frank Shih, Gregory Silverman, Colette Taylor, Kirsten Thompson, Travis Tweet

Minutes taken by Rosa Hughes

- I. Review 4-9-18 Minutes
 - A. Amendment: IV.A.3.a.: *Prioritize discussion of diversity and inclusion, including faculty hiring processes, perhaps advocate for cluster hires*
 1. Amendment vote – 13 approve, 0 oppose, 2 abstain
 - B. Minutes vote – 13 approve, 0 oppose, 3 abstain
- II. University Budget & Financial Outlook Update (*Connie Kanter*)
 - A. FY19 budget preview (not yet approved by the Board of Trustees)
 1. Multi-year financial projections used as a starting point
 - a. Budget reductions: maintain funding in areas of growth, 2-4% potential reductions across divisions, Cabinet categorized into tiers 1-3
 - b. New investments: compensation and benefits and wage pool, two phase New Funding Requests
 - c. Trying to build back capital reserves, on target for 10 year facilities plan
 2. Enrollment
 - a. Undergraduate enrollment essentially flat, graduate growing modestly
 - b. Projected slightly up from last year, most schools are slightly down, S&E is growing
 3. Tuition
 - a. 4% increase in undergraduate tuition and fees
 - b. Higher discount rates lead to relatively flat net tuition revenue per student
 - c. 75% of revenue goes to compensation, cannot keep up with rising cost of living regionally
 - d. Tech fee is rising to \$525 next year, facilities fee will remain the same
 - e. 93% of operating budget next year is coming from tuition and fees, and residence halls
 - f. UG tuition increase less than 4%, fourth year in a row
 - g. Discount rate: last year 48.2%, current year 49.2%, next year 49.9%
 4. Operating budget
 - a. Request for staff to be broken out by administration versus other staff
 - b. Athletics is 9.5% of operating budget
 - c. No budget reductions in Diversity and Inclusion – new and small percentage of budget
 - d. New Funding
 - i. Wage pool 2.5% plus an additional .5% merit and market
 - ii. New staff parental leave policy
 - iii. NTT minimum salaries raised

- iv. Mandatory and operational needs (insurance, ITS, custodial, taxes, CRM, RevSU)
 - v. Revenue growth in Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), Mechanical Engineering
- B. Discussion
 - 1. Salary increases for NTT – 10% per course part time, 6% full time
 - a. These were for floor, not overall
 - b. Colleges were given the funding and then they distributed accordingly
 - 2. Data Issues
 - a. InformSU has hit a number of stumbling blocks and data (financial and otherwise) is not where it should be
 - b. Moving forward with the project, no set timeline but understand the urgency
 - 3. Concern with wages and compensation in the future
 - a. Moving toward multi-year financial planning
 - b. Difficult without strategic initiatives, will be clearer in the coming year
 - 4. Not enough faculty involvement in the budget process – wonder if there are ways to involve AcA or other groups at different stages in the budget process
 - a. Growth in faculty on Budget Advisory Committee
 - b. Faculty involvement in the tier 1-3 ranking process (for budget reductions) would be helpful
- III. Current Status, Outlook, and Challenges
 - A. Information Technology Services (*Chris Van Liew*)
 - 1. Mac users – limited progress: improved remote manageability, have not improved access to shared drive
 - 2. Onboarding process – as part of RevSU project, working on identity management but it is often held up on the HR side
 - 3. Concerns with emphasis on closing tickets instead of solving problems
 - 4. Insourcing the helpdesk over the summer, including a new customer service manager who will work on improving end-to-end processes
 - 5. The P drive was migrated to a new tech array and should be working much better now
 - 6. Reconstituting a group from across campus to comprehensively consider classroom improvements
 - 7. In six months, there will be an improvement in lab manager long-term planning, ticket management process, and a transparent planning and prioritization plan
 - B. Office of Sponsored Projects (*Rebecca McColl*)
 - 1. OSP reports to Kathleen La Voy, gateway for the university for federal and private funding grants
 - 2. Coordinate across campus with CETL, IRB, legal, etc.
 - 3. Seeking dialogue and intentional partnership with faculty
 - 4. Change from ORSSP to OSP – shift in focus of services to rebuilding team, training and education of staff
 - 5. New website with resources on how to find, write, and manage grants
 - 6. Encourage use of grant seeking tool to seek funding opportunities
 - 7. Approximately 80 active grants on campus, predominantly federal funding is in S&E and A&S, private funding is predominantly STM, Albers, Center for Community Engagement
 - 8. Suggestion for faculty advisory group to include AcA member
- IV. Subcommittee Reports
 - A. School/college governance subcommittee is working on drafting a motion
 - B. United Way subcommittee has scheduled a meeting with Provost for next week
- V. AcA 2018-19 Transition Discussion

- A. Frank and Terri are both cycling off AcA, but seeking reelection for new three year term
- B. Michael is NTT and that position is only is elected in the fall
- C. Send nominations for officers by May 14

VI. Open Discussion

A. Motion on Spectator Issue

Because of the urgency of this matter, we ask that Academic Assembly waive the 1 week motion requirement to debate this matter.

Seattle University is committed to the mission of educating the whole person and promoting inclusive excellence and social justice. Academic Assembly members are troubled by the recent events on campus that involved the President's condemnation of the cover of The Spectator depicting a person performing at the Annual Drag show. We are further troubled by the actions of a member of the faculty who chose to remove copies of the newspaper because of his concern about the impact of the image on admitted students and their parents. Although both the President and the faculty member have issued statements of apology, we the members of Academic Assembly:

- *condemn any form of censorship and the destruction of Spectator newspapers*
- *support the freedom of student journalists to publish on topics they deem important to the campus community*
- *affirm the university policy of inclusivity, and specifically endorse our commitment to LGBTQ faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community members*
- *reiterate Academic Assembly's fundamental role in decision making in academic matters as an elected faculty body and as specified in the Bylaws*
- *recognize that the intellectual work of a university involves critical thinking, free and open debate, and reflection on all topics*
- *and call for a university wide forum to debate the issues raised by this series of events*

B. Discussion

1. Timeline

- a. Spectator issue was published April 11
- b. President was offended by the cover photograph of a student in drag outfit
- c. President met with Sonora Jha, faculty advisor of Spectator, and gave an interview to a Spectator reporter that appeared in the next week's issue
- d. Faculty member and Jesuit David Leigh removed copies from four different buildings
- e. After a report to Public Safety, they accessed security footage of Fr. Leigh's removal of the papers, then Fr. Leigh made a statement of apology
- f. Fr. Steve's interview and Fr. Leigh's actions happened concurrently, but both are believed to have acted of their own accord

- 2. The story has been circulated in the Stranger, the Seattle Times, and amongst the local LGBTQ community on Capitol Hill
- 3. The relationship between Spectator, that publication's faculty advisor, Student Development, and President has been unclear in the past, legal issues are also unclear
- 4. Inclusivity and academic freedom are the major issues at hand
- 5. SGSU is forming a statement and voting this Wednesday – it will be issued to the President, following the leadership of the Triangle Club
- 6. President's tone was paternalistic and unacceptable
- 7. There is much talk about retention on campus, events like this harm retention
- 8. Final bullet point of the motion is about opening a channel for open communication in a forum setting so that everyone can speak their mind

9. If what the university believes is that drag shows are okay but only if quiet and hidden, and yet advertises SU being open and accepting, this is a major disconnect
- C. Motion to suspend one week voting rule
 1. Approved with 17 approve (abstain and oppose were not called)
- D. Motion to approve original motion
 1. Discussion
 - a. Amendment to final bullet point: add “initiated by Academic Assembly” (*and call for a university wide forum **initiated by Academic Assembly** to debate the issues raised by this series of events*)
 - b. Copies of the motion will be sent to Spectator, SGSU, GSC, Triangle Club, President and Provost, and broadly across campus
 2. Vote
 - a. Approved with 18 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain
 - b. Unanimously approved by all voting members present