



Academic Assembly Meeting No. 12
Monday, February 28, 2022
2:05 p.m. – 3:35 p.m., Zoom Meeting

MINUTES

Presenters: Eduardo Peñalver, Joyce Allen and Margit McGuire.

Members Present: Carol Adams, Mimi Cheng, Mark Cohan, Marc Cohen, Yancy Dominick, Bob Dullea (*Ex-Officio*, Provost) Doug Eriksen, Nalini Iyer, Angie Jenkins (*Ex-Officio*, SUSC), JaHun Kim, Richard McGaha, Margit McGuire, Carrie Miller, Katie Oliveras, Nhi Nguye (*Ex-Officio*, SUSG), Russ Powell, Bryan Ruppert, Patrick Schoettmer, Frank Shih, Heath Spencer, Kirsten Thompson, Phil Thompson and Valentina Zamora.

Guests: Shiny Abraham, Alexandra Adame, Peter Alaimo, Felipe Anaya, Sonia Barrios Tinoco, Hidy Basta, Lydia Bello, John Carter, Dominic CodyKramers, Christine Cole, Kathy Cook, Michelle DuBois, Brian Fischer, John Fleming, Kimberly Gawlik, Chris Granatino, David Greene, Yen-Lin Han, Dylan Helliwell, Ben Howe, Joanne Hughes, Sonora Jha, Kevin Krycka, Marrakech Maxwell, Ann McNally, Lisa Milkowski, Kerry Francesca Nisco, David Powers, Katherine Raichle, Susan Reeder, Christina Roberts, Jeanette Rodriguez, Teodora Rutar Shuman, Alex Smith, Carolyn Stenbak, Donna Teevan, Jen Tilghman-Havens, Yen Tran, Kevin Ward, Chris Whidbey, Lindsay Whitlow and Glenn Yasuda.

I. Opening Remarks

2:06 p.m. – 2:09 p.m.

- a. Meeting was called to order at 2:06 p.m. by Academic Assembly (AcA) President, Frank Shih.
- b. **MOTION** Moved by Frank Shih: “Move to approve the agenda for the February 28, 2022, meeting of the AcA.” Seconded. **Approved.**
- c. Approving meetings minutes from February 7, 2022, will be tabled for next meeting.

II. President Update, Eduardo Peñalver

2:09 p.m. – 3:07 p.m.

Seattle University’s President Eduardo Peñalver provided the following updates—

- a. *Student mental health & wellness.* To better serve the needs of our students, Seattle University has partnered with TimleyMD, a telehealth medical service. This partnership and the expanded services that it provides to students will be funded through updating the current student recreational fee into a student health and wellness fee.
- b. *Leadership transitions.* The university is working on filling open leadership positions such as the VP of University Advancement and VP of Human Resources. Furthermore, there will be organizational changes that move toward a “flattened” structure. This will streamline the university and help cultivate more efficient decision-making.
- c. *Academic excellence.* Seattle University must expand its resources to foster academic excellence. Over the next few years, the university will focus on faculty excellence—such as rank and tenure, compensation and benefits—to foster academic excellence. The goal of

this effort is to retain outstanding faculty members and increase the university's academic reputation.

- d. *Demographic cliff.* Nationwide projections suggest fewer students will graduate from high school beginning 2025, which will dramatically impact higher education admission rates. Higher education institutions will continue to aggressively recruit, and retain, students across all states. We need a strong, diverse foundation to succeed in the changing market. The university plans to invigorate graduate programs and is exploring the diversification of academic learning—undergraduate vs. graduate, degree vs. non-degree, in-person vs. online, *etcetera*.

An AcA member suggested creating a review process for how the university collects, analyzes and applies data for our strategic directions.

III. Registrar Updates, Joyce Allen

3:07 p.m. – 3:29 p.m.

- a. *Commencement.* Seattle University is planning on having commencement in-person at Climate Pledge Arena. This will be the first commencement in this space, so the university and the arena are working through the details. Starting this year, students will be able to rent gowns.
- b. *E-forms.* The Office of the Registrar is three months into transitioning to e-forms, which has been challenging. The office is working on developing a software strategy that aligns with the university's complex structures.
- c. *Quarterly scheduling.* Due to COVID-19, the Registrar team is going through a few staff transitions that poses challenges for scheduling. Additionally, they are faced with uncertainties of the pandemic: reserving rooms for in-person classes, accommodating sick faculty, needing to reschedule courses, *etcetera*. Class scheduling is connected to the university's budget cycle. Making adjustments to allow more long-term institutional budgeting could provide more scheduling predictability throughout the academic year.
- d. *Academic policy and integrity.* There was not enough time to discuss this topic.

IV. Program Revision Committee Updates, Margit McGuire

3:29 p.m. – 3:37 p.m.

PRC's Chair, Margit McGuire, moved the following motions—

- a. **MOTION** Moved by Margit McGuire: "I move to approve PRC's memo for the MIT program." AcA members discussed the motion. Seconded. **Approved.** 15 yay, 0 nay, 3 abstention.
- b. **MOTION** Moved by Margit McGuire: "I move to approve PRC's memo for the BA, Environmental Studies program." AcA members discussed the motion. Seconded. **Approved.** 15 yay, 0 nay, 2 abstention.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.