

Academic Assembly
February 13, 2017
2:05 – 3:35pm, STCN 210

MINUTES

Present: Sarah Bee, Rick Block, Pat Buchsel, Terri Clark, Brooke Coleman, Carlos de Mello e Souza, Leticia Guardiola-Saenz, Chuck Lawrence, Viviane Lopuch, Agnieszka Miguel, Michael Ng, Erik Olsen, Tracey Pepper, Trung Pham SJ, Frank Shih, Charles Tung, Ashli Tyre, Dan Washburn, Braden Wild

Minutes taken by Rosa Hughes

- I. Review 1-30-17 Minutes
 - A. Approved with no oppositions and two abstentions
- II. Budget Update (*Connie Kanter*)
 - A. Enrollment strong, but net tuition revenue relatively flat after discount rate
 - 1. Discount rates: many years of volatility FY08-12
 - 2. Our selectivity is in the mid- to low-70%, yield is 15%
 - B. FY17 budget balanced with a surplus infusion, insufficient funding available for strategic priorities
 - C. Higher education environment changing, our experience is consistent with peers
 - D. Highest recent price growth among peer 11 institutions, but still at the low end overall
 - E. About 75-80% of operating budget is salary and fringe
 - F. Invite back to future AcA meeting for discussion
- III. Communication Degree Revision (*Chris Paul, David Powers*)
 - A. Overview
 - 1. Proposal to combine three majors into one major with three specialization tracks
 - 2. Not common, but being implemented with great success at a few other schools
 - 3. Best fit for the department and SU culture
 - 4. Comprehensive update to curriculum to better scaffold courses
 - B. Discussion
 - 1. Under the old model, there were governance issues between the three different programs, so the proposal combines programs and budgets to create better communication and governance
 - 2. Under the new model, students will have the ability to double-specialize
 - 3. Plans for the future include adding another specialization track
 - C. AcA Discussion
 - 1. Motion to approve AcA memo recommending program revision approval
 - 2. Approved with no oppositions or abstentions
- IV. ADVANCE Representatives (*Jean Jacoby, Jodi O'Brien*)
 - A. Overview
 - 1. SU received institutional transformation grant from National Science Foundation (NSF) to promote advancement for women and minorities in STEM and social/behavioral sciences
 - 2. SU reps want to expand out to the rest of campus, particularly the consideration of service and community leadership in the promotion/tenure process
 - 3. Partner institution – Loyola Marymount
 - B. Discussion

1. Service should be considered in the promotion process, especially in promotion to full Professor
 2. Important to anticipate objections – “watering down” standards of Professorship
 3. Value the mentoring aspect of service
 4. Emphasize focus on the mission and seek clarity on what the mission truly means, may run into issues with different areas that see the mission differently
 5. If our standards are modified, we need to be aware of how people will be affected if they seek to move to another university with more “standard” norms for promotion
 6. Need to also discuss other modes of advancement (for example, for non-tenure track faculty, who teach the majority of teaching hours)
- V. Budget Advisory Committee**
1. Nominate Valentina Zamora to serve as an additional AcA representative on Budget Advisory Committee
 - a. Not the normal process for adding a member to a campus committee
 - b. Concern that these positions need to be broadly sought through AcA
 - c. Perhaps this position should be someone from AcA
 2. Add to next meeting agenda
- VI. English and Film Studies Program Reviews**
- A. Tabled until the next meeting
- VII. Process Issue – Bylaws Proposal**
- A. Tabled until the next meeting
- VIII. School/College Handbooks**
- A. FHRC has concern that school/college handbooks vary in quality and existence across the university
 - B. Confusion with titles and faculty rank – some colleges are not following the handbook
 - C. Add to next meeting agenda