



**Academic Assembly Meeting No. 10
Monday February 8, 2021
2:05 – 4:00 pm, Zoom Meeting**

MINUTES

Academic Assembly Members

Present: Mark Taylor, Richard McGaha, Gregory Silverman, Kirsten Thompson, Sarah Bee, Chris Paul, Terri Clark, Frank Shih, John Trafton, Obed Kabanda, Russ Powell, Katie Oliveras, Khalee Kiazolu, Shane Martin, Angie Jenkins, Kate Koppelman, Connie Anthony, Rose Murphy, Mimi Cheng, Holly Ferraro, Kathleen La Voy, Yancy Dominick, Felipe Anaya, Margit McGuire, Carol Adams, Patrick Murphy

Excused: Peter Amah, Robin Narruhn

Seattle University Attendees

Presenters: Erica Martin, Christie Eppler, Kevin Krycka, Jen Marrone, David Powers, Phillip Thompson

Guests: Joanne Hughes, Teodora Shuman, David Green, Kathy Cook, Agnieszka Miguel, Kimberly Gawlik, Hannah Tracy, Doug Latch, Sven Arvidson, Sonia Barrios Tinoco, Jeanette Rodriguez, Ryan McLaughlin, Michelle DuBois, Christina Roberts

- I. Opening Remarks & AcA President Update** **2:06 – 2:08 pm**
 - a. Meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm by AcA president, Frank Shih.
 - b. **MOTION** Moved by Frank Shih: “Move to approve the agenda for the February 8, 2021 meeting of the Academic Assembly (AcA).” Seconded. **Approved.**
 - c. **MOTION** Moved by Frank Shih: “Move to approve the meeting minutes from January 25, 2021.” Seconded. **Approved.**
 - d. The AcA President gave a brief overview of the meeting agenda and adjustments being made to Seattle University student residence life to comply with pandemic guidelines.
- II. Provost Update** **2:08 – 2:19 pm**
 - a. The Provost offered a clarification on accommodations being offered to faculty during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Provost also updated the AcA membership on the status of the 2021 Seattle University Commencement.
- III. SGSU & GSU Join Resolution** **2:19 – 2:39 pm**
 - a. The AcA representatives from both the Student Government of Seattle University (SGSU) and the Graduate Student Council (GSC) presented a joint resolution to petition the university leadership to start the 21-22 AY earlier than originally scheduled.

b. Joint SGSU & GSC Resolution on Continuing the Fall Quarter 2020 Schedule:

“Whereas, the mission of Student Government of Seattle University (SGSU) and Graduate Student Council (GSC), as stated in their constitutions, include to be “the official voice and advocate for students”; and “to create a supportive community that better meets the need and improves the experience of graduate students” respectively; and,

Whereas, Seattle University moved the Fall Quarter 2020 start time and conclusion forward by two weeks to “significantly reduce the number of students needing to travel back and forth in November and December, and being exposed to and potentially spreading infectious diseases like the flu and Covid-19” as stated in the May 27, 2020 Presidential Communication; and,

Whereas, in Fall Quarter 2021 students “being exposed to and potentially spreading [...] the flu” when traveling will continue to be a threat, regardless of the status of Covid-19; and,

Whereas, 64% of incoming first-year students at Seattle University are from out-of-state; and,

Whereas, traveling back and forth in November and again in December has always been a financial burden for students, especially those residing out-of-state; and

Whereas, we acknowledge that the decision to move Fall Quarter 2020 forward relieved that burden from out-of-state students; and

Whereas, concluding Fall Quarter 2020 before Thanksgiving and not having a multiday holiday before finals will ensure greater instructional continuity for students and a longer, more restful break; and

Whereas, students have contacted both SGSU and GSC to express their preference for the Fall Quarter 2020 schedule; then

Now therefore be it resolved, SGSU and GSC assert that the Fall Quarter 2020 schedule is beneficial to students for health, financial, and academic reasons; and

Be it further resolved, SGSU and GSC urge Seattle University to adopt the Fall Quarter 2020 schedule, which started the quarter two weeks earlier and concluded the quarter before Thanksgiving, for the 2021-2022 Academic Year; and

Be it further resolved, SGSU and GSC urge the Provost and University Cabinet to consider adopting the Fall Quarter 2020 early start schedule for additional future years.”

- c. The SGSU & GSC representatives provided an overview of the context and student feedback that led to the proposal of the resolution. AcA members asked questions of the representatives and offered feedback on the resolution.
- d. **MOTION** Moved by Kirsten Thompson: “AcA supports the joint resolution of student governments SGSU and GSC (WQ2021-01) for early start for Fall 2021 with recognition that December time off be respected.” AcA members discussed the motion. Seconded.
- e. **MOTION** Moved by Gregory Silverman: “Move to table the discussion and subsequent vote on the aforementioned motion of AcA support for the SGSU and GSC resolution to the next meeting of the AcA.” AcA members discussed the motion. Seconded. **Approved.**

IV. Programmatic Change Proposal – MACFT Transition from STM to CAS

2:39 – 2:55 pm

- a. Representatives from the School of Theology and Ministry (STM) and the College of Arts (CAS) and Sciences presented a memo proposing the transition of the Master of Arts in

Couples and Family Therapy (MACFT) Program from STM to CAS. AcA members discussed the contents of the memo and asks questions of the representatives.

- b. **MOTION** Moved by Provost Shane Martin: “Move that the AcA approves the memo recommending the transition of the MACFT program from STM to CAS.” AcA members discussed the motion. Seconded. **Approved.**

V. Center for Environmental Justice and Sustainability **2:55 – 3:10 pm**

- a. The Director of the Center for Environmental Justice and Sustainability (CEJS), Dr. Phillip Thompson presented an update and overview of CEJS’s operations to date, as well as potential improvements to Seattle University’s environmental justice and sustainability endeavors. AcA members asked questions of the presenter and offered feedback on the contents of the presentation.

VI. Academic Calendar Review Update **3:10 – 3:41 pm**

- a. The Academic Calendar Review (ACR) Co-Chairs, Kevin Krycka and Jen Marrone, offered an update on the progress of the ACR process, the working group’s research and previewed a PowerBI informational tool. The co-chairs highlighted upcoming community engagement opportunities. The AcA membership asked questions of the presenters and offered feedback on the contents of the update.

VII. Introduction of Motion to Record Open Faculty Meetings and Fora **3:41 – 3:58 pm**

- a. Representatives from the College of Education presented a motion to record all open fora, information sessions, meetings and/or any faculty centered events.
- b. **MOTION** Moved by AcA Members Carol Adams and Margit McGuire: “Given that campus-wide faculty meetings and fora are often scheduled when many faculty cannot attend because of personal responsibilities; teaching schedules or prior commitments and given that transparency and inclusiveness are stated priorities of the university, I move that all campus-wide meetings and fora that have an impact on faculty academic life be recorded and made available to faculty upon request; however, given that there are inherently unequal power dynamics in such campus-wide faculty meetings and fora, a process will need to be developed to ensure that faculty can freely participate in the discussion without attribution.” AcA members discussed the motion. Seconded.
- c. AcA membership moved a vote on the aforementioned motion to the next meeting of the AcA.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:58 pm.

*Minutes taken, and respectively submitted, by the AcA Secretary
Lindsey Nakatani, Senior Administrative Assistant, Office of the Provost
February 8, 2021*