

**Minutes
Faculty Senate Meeting
Budget Discussion
18 February 2009**

Professor Stephen Silvia called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Professors Present: Scott Bass, Randall Blair, Wendell Cochran, Carole Gallaher, James Girard, Robert Karch, Kiho Kim, William Leap, Nanette Levinson, Haig Mardirosian, Andy Pike, Gwendolyn Reece, Leigh Riddick, Anthony Riley, Joanne Savage, Stephen Silvia, Stacey Snelling, Lyn Stallings, Steven Taylor, Shalini Venturelli, and Michael Wilkerson.

Welcome and Introduction, Stephen Silvia

Professor Silvia welcomed everyone to this special meeting to discuss and vote on the budget.

Report of the Chair, Stephen Silvia

Professor Silvia mentioned that at the March Faculty Senate meeting there will be a vote on the Family Leave Proposal and if anyone has any suggestions for changes to let one of the officers know so that the Executive Committee could discuss them. A second item that will be discussed at the March meeting will be the formation of new committee to look into salary equity. Prof. Silvia asked the Senators to think about any faculty members with experience in statistics that could possibly serve on this committee.

Report on the Budget, James Girard

Prof. Girard began by addressing the questions he received after his Feb. 4 presentation:

- Associate Professor Pay Gap – Dean Mardirosian said that there is not a significant problem at a university-wide level with AAUP 1 levels at the full and associate levels. The small gap at the Associate Professor level is likely to close in the 2009-10 academic year, because the budget proposes a three-percent pay increase, and many other institutions have instituted pay freezes. The proposed budget would address a gap, which does exist, at the assistant professor level.
- Funding for the Library – University Librarian, William Mayer, said that the money allocated to the Library is appropriate at this time.
- Faculty/Staff Climate Survey – This survey will provide an opportunity for the faculty and staff to voice their opinions about the University services. There currently is no baseline for this. The survey would serve as one.

- Academic Computing – This will encompass technological enhancements throughout the University that focus on faculty and student support.
- Enhancements to Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) – The current purpose of CTE is to support teaching, but CTE will be enhanced to do more. It will also focus on faculty development, which includes research scholarship, creative activity, professional development, issues of leadership, and mentoring. Provost Bass announced that CTE will unveil its new name in March.

Provost Bass stressed that it is important to understand that the budget money is still at this point only a request. It is predicated on two things, a tuition increase of 5% per year for the next two academic years and the Board of Trustees feeling comfortable allocating this large amount of money. He added that if for some reason enrollment numbers drop and this budget has already been approved, there are four measures that the Provost can take to curtail spending short of cutting into the base budget. For instance, he can delay spending on maintenance, technology upgrades and faculty hires. He emphasized that the budget money requested is critical for the University to move forward.

Prof. Leap asked the Provost to give the Senators his assurance that if budget cutbacks became necessary, he would use the process employed to build the budget as the mechanism for budget reduction, which included involvement of the Faculty Senate Instructional Budget and Benefits Committee, in order to ensure that faculty voice would be involved in any reduction process. The Provost indicated that he would do that.

Professor Silvia read the resolution: *The American University Faculty Senate endorses the draft of the academic budget for FY10-FY11 as presented to it by the Senate's Instructional Budget and Benefits Committee and the University Provost. The Faculty Senate would particularly like to thank the Senate's Instructional Budget and Benefits Committee and the faculty participants on the University Budget Committee for their dedication and diligence in formulating this budget.* Professor Stallings called the question and Professor Blair made a motion to adopt the resolution. The Faculty Senate **VOTED** to pass the resolution, 19 in favor, zero against and no abstentions.

For Good of the Order

Professor Silvia asked if anyone is interested in being the Faculty Senate Vice-Chair next year.

He also reminded everyone that the Faculty Summit is coming up on February 21.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45.