

Minutes
Faculty Senate Meeting
May 6, 2009

Professor Stephen Silvia called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

Present: Professors Stephen Silvia, Gary Weaver, Lyn Stallings, Randall Blair, Wendell Cochran, John Douglass, Carole Gallaher, James Girard, Kiho Kim, Ira Klein, Nanette Levinson, Gwendolyn Reece, Leigh Riddick, Anthony Riley, Jerzy Sapieyevski, Stacey Snelling, Steve Taylor, Shalini Venturelli, Michael Wilkerson, Dean Mardirosian, and Provost Scott Bass.

Welcome and Introduction, Stephen Silvia

Professor Silvia welcomed everyone to the meeting and reported the results of the Senate elections.

Faculty Senate Election Results:

Naomi Baron – at-large Senator
Brian Forst – at-large Senator
Lenny Steinhorn - SOC representative
Fred Jacobs - CAS representative, CFR Chair
Barlow Burke - WCL representative
Mary Mintz - Library representative
Anthony Wanis St. John - SIS representative
John Smith - Committee on Information Services
Nadia Harris - Faculty Development Committee

There will be committee elections for the chair of the Academic Budget and Benefits Committee and for a co-chair for the Joint Committee on Curriculum and Academic Programs (JCCAP).

Report of the Chair, Stephen Silvia

Elections

This year's elections were redone in order to include some nominees on the ballots who were not included the first time. Professor Silvia added that there will be a special election in the fall to replace Helen Langa, who is currently the chair of her department, and thus cannot be on the Committee on Faculty Relations.

Professor Silvia mentioned that among his duties as Past Chair, he will try to revise how the Faculty Senate elections are being currently done so that they are more efficient.

Faculty Manual Revision Committee

Prof. Silvia also announced the results of the elections for the ad hoc Faculty Manual Revision Committee. The members of the committee include: Lyn Stallings (CAS), Randall Blair (SOC), Leigh Riddick (KSB), Barlow Burke (WCL), Steven Taylor (SPA), Stephen Silvia (SIS), Mary Mintz (Library), John Douglass (at-large), Naomi Baron (at-large), and Dean of Academic Affairs Kay Mussell as an ex-officio member.

The Town Hall meeting on April 28 was also helpful for gathering views and perspectives on the Faculty Manual revision. For example, differences among the various schools for promotion and tenure quickly became evident.

Over the summer, there will be periodic announcements about progress by this Committee.

Report of the Provost, Scott Bass

Dr. Bass thanked the Faculty Senate for a very productive year. He is focused on implementing the goals of the Strategic Plan.

Announcements:

The School of Communication received accreditation on all nine areas of concentration.

The university exceeded this year's projected enrollment numbers. The profile of students is more diverse in terms of race and income; GPA and SAT scores are higher.

Graduate enrollment is up and retention is strong. Dr. Bass announced that, across the board in the Master's programs, there is an average growth of about 10% and a modest growth in the PhD programs. The only area of weakness is the Washington Semester Program. There are two finalists each for the new CAS Dean and the Vice Provost for Graduate Studies positions.

The Provost has formed the Frederick Douglass Scholarship Program Committee and Charles Tesconi will be the chair. The goal is to ensure that there are students enrolled in the program by the upcoming fall.

A Center for Latin American and Latino Studies is being established. A search for a director for this Center is currently underway.

The next faculty Summit is planned for October 16 and will be an all-faculty overnight retreat.

Faculty Activity Reporting System, Haig Mardirosian

Dean Mardirosian announced that a new on-line faculty reporting system will be implemented sometime over the summer. This will enable faculty to post and update all of their information in one central and secure location in the portal.

Executive Committee Report

Ratification of the Ad Hoc Faculty Salary Equity Study Committee Membership, Steve Silvia

The Faculty Senate **VOTED** to ratify the list of members, 19 to 0. The members are: Bette Dickerson (CAS), Laura Langbein (SPA), Robin Lumsdaine (KSB), Mieke Meurs (CAS), Scott Parker (CAS).

Resolution to Create a Committee on Learning Assessment, Stacey Snelling

About a year and half ago, when a Project Team was set up to work on the Middle States Periodic Review Report, it was discovered that an area that needed attention was learning outcomes and assessment. Professor Snelling suggested that the current Project Team would be the first members of the new committee. They would have staggered terms. In subsequent years, a subset of the committee would be elected by the faculty for two year terms. Each college will be represented on the committee. The Faculty Senate **VOTED** to pass the resolution, 19 to 0.

The New Faculty Senate Vice Chair

The Faculty Senate **VOTED** Professor Leigh Riddick as the new Faculty Senate Vice Chair by acclamation.

For the Good of the Order

Tribute to Dean Mardirosian

Professor Silvia highlighted Dean Mardirosian's contributions to the University and presented a gift from the Senate.

Handing Over the Gavel

Professor Stallings thanked Professor Silvia for his work as Faculty Senate Chair for the 2008-2009 academic year and presented a gift from the Senate.

Bookstore

Professor Klein suggested that perhaps the University might change its book carrier from Follet to Barnes and Noble.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15.