

Minutes
Faculty Senate Meeting
3 September 2008

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

Present: Professors Stephen Silvia, Lyn Stallings, Gary Weaver, James Girard, Kiho Kim, Ira Klein, Gwendolyn Reece, William Leap, John Douglass, Leigh Riddick, Nanette Levinson, Robert Karch, Wendell Cochran, Patricia West, Stacey Snelling, Jerzy Sapieyevski, Anthony Riley, Shalini Venturelli, Joanne Savage, Steven Taylor, Randall Blair, Carolyn Gallaher, Dean Haig Mardirosian, and Provost Scott Bass.

Welcome and Introduction, Stephen Silvia

Professor Silvia welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular, new Senators Joanne Savage and Shalini Venturelli.

Report of the Chair, Stephen Silvia

- The Faculty Senate's Executive Committee held its first meeting of the academic year on August 20. This meeting included the chairs of the Faculty Senate's standing committees because it was the planning meeting for this academic year. The Executive Committee identified the Strategic Plan and the Budget as top priorities.
- On August 27, there was a meeting between the Faculty Senate's Executive Committee, the Faculty Senate's standing committees, and the Deans. The purpose of this round-table meeting was to discuss the range of issues that the Senate and University administrators should consider for action. The larger objective of the dialog is to deepen shared governance at the University. The meeting was productive and there was agreement to continue meeting on a monthly basis. Prof. Silvia underscored that these round-table meetings were to serve as a forum of discussion only. All items for action would continue to go through Senate committees and the full Senate.

Votes

1. *Approval of the May Minutes*

Professor Leap reminded the Senators that in the Strategic Plan section of the May minutes there should be a mention about including gender and sexuality. Professor Silvia said that he would amend the minutes.

The Senators then **VOTED** to approve the May minutes.

2. *Faculty Representatives to the Committees of the Board of Trustees*

The Senate ***VOTED*** to ratify the following list of the representatives to the Committees of the Board of Trustees for the 2008-09 academic year:

Academic Affairs:	Randall Blair
Alumni Affairs and Development:	Richard Bennett
Athletics:	Bob Karch
Audit:	Phil Jacoby
Campus Life:	Ira Klein
Finance and Investment:	Leigh Riddick
International Affairs:	Nanette Levinson
Trusteeship:	Lyn Stallings

3. A Senator to serve on the Executive Committee

There is one vacancy for the general seat on the Faculty Senate's Executive Committee for the 2008-09 academic year. Three Senators expressed an interest in the seat: Leigh Riddick, Bill Leap, and Jerzy Sapievski.

The Senate ***voted*** by secret ballot for Leigh Riddick to fill the seat.

Report by President Neil Kerwin

- President Kerwin welcomed the new Provost, Scott Bass.
- This freshman class is on record as being the largest freshman class.
- In about three weeks, the Board of Trustees will meet for its Annual September Retreat, and they will discuss the draft Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan is designed to provide a framework for the university for the next ten years. There is a tight turnaround time; the timetable is for the Board to vote on the Plan at its November meeting.
- The University Budget Committee is working on developing the first set of recommendations for the next two-year budget for Board consideration.
- There are several construction projects underway on campus, including a new home for SIS, which will include some additional space for the library as well, and an expansion of Kogod.
- A candidate has been identified for the position of Vice President of Academic Affairs, but must be approved by the Board of Trustees.
- Graduations will be changed this year. Each college and school will hold a separate graduation ceremony.
- The Army Corps of Engineers is continuing its work.

Report by Provost Scott Bass

Provost Bass explained that he would like to facilitate a better dialogue between faculty and administration. He introduced Denise Wilkerson, the Special Assistant to the Provost, and Karen Froslid-Jones, who provides statistical analysis to the Provost.

Provost Bass made a presentation about the Carnegie Classification, which is a classification of institutions of higher education. He stressed that this is not a ranking, but rather a classification of the approximately 4,000 U.S. universities.

Doctoral institutions are categorized very high research, high research, or doctoral/research, based on the intensity of research at a university. American University is classified in the doctoral/research category. To get into this group, the university must award twenty doctoral degrees per year, and last year, AU awarded fifty. Both the record of receiving grants and the amount of doctoral-research activity are important. The analysis includes research and development expenditures in all subject areas.

Provost Bass distributed a list of the universities in the same category with American University, some of which include: Ball State University, George Fox University, Oral Roberts University, East Carolina, and Widener University. The bottom line is that American University is near the bottom of the doctoral/research category. Provost Bass emphasized that it is important to understand what our university should do to improve. The draft Strategic Plan lists as goals advancing the University into the “high research activity” classification of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and placing the University by the Center for Measuring University Performance among the top 200 research universities. To be included in this group, a university must have at least \$20 million in Federal research and development per year. Last year, American University had \$1.5 million in Federal research and development. Provost Bass emphasized that the challenge can be met, primarily with the help of the faculty who would initiate and develop additional PhD programs.

Provost Bass suggested that it would be a good idea to look at other similar-sized universities, such as Brandeis University and Boston College, to learn from their examples. These are two universities have similar-sized faculties as American University, but there is a big difference in faculty productivity.

Report on the Strategic Plan, Anthony Riley

Professor Riley spoke in place of Professor William DeLone, who was unable to attend the meeting. Professor Riley emphasized that the purpose of this discussion was to gather feedback from Senators and to exchange ideas about the Strategic Plan. He also wanted to know whether or not the Senators view the themes listed in the draft Strategic Plan as comprehensive, and whether any themes need to be added or subtracted. Starting in October, the Strategic Plan Steering Committee would add action points under the themes. The Strategic Plan Steering Committee will provide the Board of Trustees with a revised draft on September 9, and then the Board will hold a thorough discussion of that draft at their retreat on September 25-26.

Professor Riddick mentioned that the faculty of the Kogod School of Business was not “excited” about the draft Strategic Plan, and that the mission statement and plan are too long. The Kogod faculty expressed a strong interest in seeing more specifics, and noted that it was difficult to assess the plan without them.

Professor Venturelli added that the SIS faculty felt strongly about faculty course loads and OSP funded support for faculty research.

Professor Douglass wanted to have an idea of the specific steps that are necessary for implementation of the Strategic Plan and what will it cost.

Professor Gallaher added that there is a lack of focus on faculty issues, such as maternity/paternity leave and salaries.

For Good of the Order

Professor West announced that the library would be holding its annual faculty coffee/lunch on September 4.

Professor Douglass asked for additional budget items.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45.