

*Minutes
Faculty Senate Meeting
November 5, 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, Leigh Riddick, Nanette Levinson, Robert Karch, Wendell Cochran, Patricia West, Stacey Snelling, Jerzy Sapieyewski, Anthony Riley, Shalini Venturelli, Joanne Savage, Steven Taylor, Michael Wilkerson, Randall Blair, Dean Mardirosian, and Provost Scott Bass.

Welcome and Introduction, Stephen Silvia

Professor Silvia welcomed everyone to the meeting, and in introduced the newest Senator, Professor Michael Wilkerson, who is the Senator chosen by the College of Arts and Sciences from the Educational Policies Committee.

Minutes

Senators ***VOTED*** to approve the October minutes.

Discussion with Board of Trustees Vice-chair, Tom Gottschalk

Professor Silvia introduced Mr. Gottschalk and mentioned that he has been a Trustee since 1988 and is currently Counsel at Kirkland & Ellis, LLP. In addition, Professor Silvia noted that American University awarded Mr. Gottschalk the President's Award for his numerous and outstanding contributions to the University.

Strategic Plan

Mr. Gottschalk mentioned that with the new administration of President Kerwin starting last year, the Strategic Plan Committee has been working on revising and updating the University's Strategic Plan. Professor DeLone and the rest of the committee have come up with a draft plan that outlines a number of goals and a direction for the university over the next decade. The Board of Trustees will review the plan its November meeting.

Mr. Gottschalk said that the vision for the university is to provide intellectual leadership to shape emerging world views and to forge new scholarly paths that prepare students to lead. Underlying this vision is the preeminent, predominant, and central role of the faculty to help to achieve the vision and mission of the university. Mr. Gottschalk outlined a few of the goals. The first emphasizes the scholar/teacher ideal, and the second and third are a superb undergraduate experience and distinctive graduate programs. The next few goals describe engaging in great issues, such as the goal of placing AU among its appropriate Carnegie classification peers and among the top 200 research universities as measured by the Center for Measuring University Performance, further development of Alumni support, and external recognition for the worth and value of AU, improving diversity on campus at all levels and revenue diversification.

The Strategic Plan will shape much of the substantive agenda of the Board over the next few years, in terms of what is needed to achieve these goals and working together as a campus community.

Finance

The two-year budget plan is coming up for consideration at the February Board meeting. There is great concern about the impact of the U.S. economy on the university. President Kerwin had reported to the Board that there has not been a significant impact on enrollment or financial aid, although bonds that are used to borrow money to build new buildings have been affected. However, Don Myers and the Finance group have helped the situation by renegotiating bonds under more favorable terms, which will spare the university additional interest expense.

Conclusion

In an effort to promote good publicity for the university, the Board has formed a standing committee on Communications.

The hard work of the faculty is essential for improving the reputation of the university, while the role of the Board is to provide support, primarily financial and administrative.

Regarding fundraising, Mr. Gottschalk said that there are some carry-over objectives to raise money for already identified priorities on campus and he stressed that the Board is very interested in increasing the university's donor base. Additionally, in the Strategic Plan supports an increased allotment for student aid and fellowships and President Kerwin would like to increase the number of named or funded professorships.

Last, the Board will be working on a new facilities plan as well and is interested in enhancing the Library, technology, and innovation.

Report of the Chair, Stephen Silvia

- Professor Silvia distributed the September Executive Committee meeting minutes.
- At the October Senate-Deans Round Table, the participants discussed expanding the membership of the search committee for the CAS Dean, the budget plans of the schools and colleges in light of the strategic plan, and the pros and cons of the current structure of the Committee on Faculty Relations.
- Professor Silvia thanked Provost Bass for hosting the October 21st Provost Forum, which was held at Kay Spiritual Life Center, in which the Provost outlined the new structure of the Provost Office.
- As Mr. Gottschalk mentioned, there was a special Board of Trustees meeting on October 23 to discuss the Strategic Plan. Professors Silvia and Weaver participated in that meeting, which was quite constructive and fruitful.

- There were two e-mail votes. The first was to ratify Leonard Steinhorn to serve once again as the faculty representative to the Communication Committee of the Board of Trustees. Senators ***VOTED*** 16 to 0 to ratify the nomination of Prof. Steinhorn. Regarding the second e-mail question, Senators ***VOTED*** 14 to 2 to express support of the Provost's proposal to expand the membership of the search committee for the CAS Dean.
- There are two issues that may come up for a vote at the December meeting: proposal regarding the university's treatment of Intellectual Property and proposal regarding the Family Leave policy.
- The Faculty Senate Fall Emeriti Luncheon will take place on November 17th. WCL Prof. Jamie Raskin will be the speaker.

Report by Provost Scott Bass

- Provost Bass thanked the Senators for supporting his proposal to expand the membership of the search committee for the CAS Dean. The search committee is now more diverse, and an outside search firm has been retained to assist in the process.
- There are two other searches taking place, the undergraduate Vice Provost position chaired by Senior Vice Provost Haig Mardirosian and Graduate Studies and Research Vice Provost position chaired by SPA Dean William LeoGrande.
- Provost Bass mentioned some strategic partnerships that he and other faculty members are discussing with agencies in the region include: the Earth Sciences Division of NASA Goddard, the Smithsonian Museum's Director of the National Museum of African American and History Culture, and the National Archives.
- The Accrediting Council for Education on Journalism and Mass Communication gave a superb review to the programs of the School of Communication.
- Spring registration is up from this point last year, although the U.S. economy is not doing well.
- One area on which Provost Bass would like to focus is Faculty Development, and he introduced SVP Mardirosian, who spoke in further detail on this subject. SVP Mardirosian mentioned that the key objective of Faculty Development is to maximize the potential of faculty in their work. To accomplish this requires a degree of empowerment of the individual faculty member without undue encumbrances on achieving goals. With that come the university's expectations of individual faculty member for productivity and accountability.
SVP Mardirosian added that there are several activities taking place on campus to support this effort. For instance, there are the New Faculty Orientations, discussion sessions with faculty on various topics of interest such as research, and faculty research and curriculum

development awards. In addition, the undergraduate research funding has been redone, having moved to the University Honors Office. The university is investing in a Faculty Activity Reporting software package, which will enable faculty to maintain all documentation in one central location.

Committee Reports

Instructional Budget & Benefits Committee, Janice Flug

The Faculty Senate's Instructional Budget & Benefits Committee is responsible for presenting to the Faculty Senate for review and endorsement a recommended range in the tuition increase for the next budget cycle and the academic budget priorities. Once passed, these priorities will be sent to the University Budget Committee for broader discussion of AU budget priorities. Then, these priorities will be sent to the President and the Board of Trustees for endorsement. While this process is underway, the Strategic Plan, once agreed upon, will generate action plans which may suggest initiatives for the teaching units and thus may need to be included in the budget. Funding for specific initiatives will be included in the final budget.

Ms Flug announced that the committee is recommending an increase in the range of 4.5% to 6.5% for undergraduate tuition. The committee also recommends decoupling the graduate tuition from undergraduate tuition. The Deans would work with the Provost to determine appropriate tuition for their graduate programs.

The academic budget priorities include:

- Faculty salaries – funds need to be allocated to remove inequities in order to maintain the salaries at AAUP1 level.
- Pre-fund merit salary increase.
- Additional faculty lines to maintain a 14:1 faculty to student ratio.
- Funds to create equity in teaching unit base budgets.
- Programmatic initiatives for the Strategic Plan (to be determined).
- Increase in adjunct faculty salaries.
- Support for summer initiatives to increase competitiveness and expand revenue.
- Increase in graduate financial aid.
- Support provided to the teaching units for marketing and recruitment at the graduate and undergraduate level.
- Support provided for academic research infrastructure.
- Undergraduate students' research and travel support.

Ms Reece proposed an amendment that would add to the list of priorities an additional objective: *Funding for underrepresented domestic minority recruitment and retention.* After a discussion, the Senators **VOTED** to include the amendment 17 to 0, with 1 abstention. Next, the Senators **VOTED** on the recommended tuition changes and the list of budget priorities as amended. It passed 14 to 1, with 3 abstentions.

Committee on Faculty Relations, Randall Blair

The CFR has been meeting weekly to review files and to discuss the Faculty Manual.

Student Learning, Ira Klein

Professor Klein asked whether any Senators who have had any specific incidents of difficulties in obtaining textbooks for their classes this semester to please contact him.

For Good of the Order

VP of Campus Life Gail Short Hanson introduced the new Dean of Students and Assistant Vice President, Robert Hradsky.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45.