

Faculty Senate Minutes
4:30-5:30 P.M.
26 May 2009

Members Present

Aram Hajian
Vahan Bournazian
Alexan Simonyan
Gurgen Khachatryan,
Varduhi Petrosyan
Byron Crape
Melissa Brown
Garegin Gevorgyan
Lusine Galadjyan
Tom Samuelian
Robert Agajeenian

Members Absent

* Hossein Farhady
Gagik Gabrielyan

Guests

Bob Bagramian
Varooshan Harikian

* Indicates excused absence

Faculty Senate Agenda:

26 May 2009

- Quorum Call

- Approval of Agenda

- Approval of April 30 Minutes

- Confirm regular FS meeting time

- Executive Committee introduction

- Ethics & Grievance Committee introduction

- Committee on Extension Programs introduction

- Curriculum Committee introduction

- Discussion for presentation at Dean's meeting on May 27, 2009

- Other Business

MINUTES

Introductions

1) Quorum Call

Quorum present

2) Approval of Agenda

The agenda was adopted by consensus (moved to adopt and seconded the motion with no objections).

3) Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the 30 April 2009 Faculty Senate meeting were adopted by consensus (moved to adopt, seconded the motion with no objections).

4) Faculty Senate Meeting Time

Will revisit meeting time discussion in the future. Consensus on meeting time currently: 4:30 pm last Thursday of each month, Room 233 W.

Aram Hajian as chair introduces the committees:

Executive committee: Aram Hajian as chair, Varduhi Petrosian as vice chair, Byron Crape as secretary and Vahan Bournazian as parliamentarian

Ethics and Grievance Committee:

Vahan Bournazian, Garegin Gevorgyan, Melissa Brown, Gagik Gabrielyan, Armen Petrosyan

Curriculum Committee:

Hossein Farhady, Lucig Danielian, Aram Hajian, Rubina Ohanian, Varduhi Petrosyan, Tom Samuelian

Committee on Extension Programs:

Robert Agajeenian, Aram Hajian, Gurgen Khachatryan, Byron Crape

5) Executive Committee

Nothing to report- Aram

6) Ethics & Grievance Committee

Nothing to report---Vahan

6) Committee on Extension Programs

Byron met with Varoozhan Harikian (present at Faculty Senate Meeting), Director of Extension Services, to reestablish relations and arrange to complete processing for extension courses established since 1 Jan 2009---using computer software. Varoozhan indicated further meetings. Bob Bagramian asked about role of this committee. Aram read the purpose.

7) Curriculum Committee

Goals and purposes were reviewed. It was discussed that this committee will meet by email and in person. Audits are outstanding for two regular programs and extension.

Chair indicated that non-members of the faculty senate can attend meetings. A brief summary was provided on a student dismissal.

Vahan indicates that meetings by email require some standards as defined by the bylaws—requiring equal opportunity and assured communications to all members of that meeting.

8) Discussion for presentation at Dean's meeting on May 27, 2009

Aram noted the upcoming Dean's Retreat tomorrow for the purpose of providing faculty voice for concerns and issues. Suggestions for issues are requested. Noted: 1) Promoting leveraging AUA in Armenia and outside (Bob Bagramian), 2) Supporting the growth of extension programs (V, 3) Recruitment (Aram), 3) Budget Cuts—what's happening with fund raising? How do grow with less money? What is next—what is the plan? (Tom), 4) With President stepping down, what will happen? Reflection on whole direction of AUA (Bob Bagramian)

Group discussion ensued concerning the search for the new President: what is the time table? What is the process? Consensus on concerns for faculty voice in selection process.

Varduhi described the search process for provost--- where faculty had meetings with candidates—faculty had opportunities to reflect on the selection with input, interviews, feedback. This was one model for feedback from faculty.

Discussion on where the concerns of faculty voice for selection of President should be directed: Deans Retreat? Board of Trustees? Provost?

Aram suggested directing issues to Board of Trustees with letter. Discussion led to consensus on letter to Trustees that should include following issues: 1) that the faculty is interested, 2) that the faculty is interested in being informed and updated, 3) that the faculty wants or wants to know the mechanism for faculty input (possibly citing example of provost search).

Discussion ensued on letter: Melinda asked it would be a letter for the Executive Committee only? Varduhi indicated no, suggested drafting a letter and circulating by email to faculty senate members. Bob Bagramian suggested defining attributes wanted in a president. Discussion ensued.

Presidential attributes discussion: Varduhi suggested contacts with U.S.—non-resident. Another suggestion—fund raiser. Tom stated that President should not be fundraiser—professionals should do it—that AUA programs had 20% cuts and Development did not do their job raising the necessary funds—they are responsible. AUA needs a well-structured budgetary process.

Vahan asks how the letter should be structured. Varduhi suggests bullet points. Vahan suggests a letter 1. showing faculty concern about search, 2. mechanisms for faculty involvement, 3. providing the example of the provost search.

All discuss: Need deadline, draft letter, circulate and send off. Faculty wants part of the process, improve the process, good results; we are stakeholders. Accentuate positives. Tone of faculty should be offering services. Varduhi: don't upset anyone. Consensus.

Bob Bagramian: good to do more fundraising. All Universities suffering—we're not alone. Better fundraising.

Motion and Seconded for letter—consensus.

Melissa—letter a short offer of dialogue rather than what we want to see. We care.

Aram- Don't want to sell ourselves short; if we want to legitimize process.

Vahan- supports longer letter, also requesting information

Tom- couple of points

Consensus.

Other Business

Varoozhan-really enjoyed meeting. Asking about possibility of remote connection with him for future meetings. It's been proven. Aram indicated yes.

Vahan is on the University-wide Admissions Committee and expresses concerns that even though TOEFL scores low, some student were admitted. Aram indicated in some cases verbal communications were very good. Vahan indicated that we use standardized testing for a reason. Bob A. indicated that English will start using IBT internet-based test soon. Tom indicates that test is sometimes biased towards higher scores because of testing preparation---lower score is "real". Bob A. indicated IBT is a better test. Poor correlation between success in program and TOEFL scores. Hossein will be speaking in Dean's Retreat on this issue. Melissa- because of language requirement, may not be getting best students.

A motion was made to adjourn and seconded without objection.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Byron Crape.