Faculty Senate Meeting

May 18, 2016

* Quorum called at 9:05
  + Present
    - Kevin Adkin
    - Hayk Mamajanyan
    - David Davidian
    - Jenny Paturyan
    - Aram Keryan
    - Simon Clarke
    - Arto Vaun
    - Mikayel Tovmasyan
    - Irshat Madyarov
    - Ara Chalabyan
    - Tsovinar Harutyunyan
    - Gayane Barseghyan
  + Absent
    - Artur Khalatyan
    - Arthur Dolmajian
    - Varduhi Petrosyan
    - Don Fuller
    - Aleksandr Grigoryan
  + Guests
    - Provost Randall Rhodes
    - Shari Melkonian
    - Catherine Buon
* Approval of the agenda
* Approval of minutes from the April 19, 2016 meeting
* Reports from Committees:
  + Executive Committee led by Irshat
    - Topics will be covered during the course of this meeting.
  + Curriculum Committee with Catherine Buon
    - Proposal for changes to CS program. Proposal was refined, courses were adjusted, course requirements were adjusted.
    - New courses approved.
  + Academic Standards Committee (proposed) led by Irshat
    - **Policy was changed to include a student representative in the process. Provost Rhodes noted that the role of the student must somewhat limited**
    - **Vote: In favor - unanimous**
    - Committee will be formed in September with the formation of a new Faculty Senate.
  + Concurrent and non-concurrent Policy led by Shari
    - Students transferring from another institution will not be required to retake legally required courses (first aid, fitness, etc)
    - Works to resolve issues with students undergoing two degrees at two different universities. AUA will not accept credits from another university if they are also actively working toward a degree at another university - the course cannot be accepted for credit in two simultaneous degrees.
    - **A final change was made to the last sentence of both sections of the policy based on input from the Registrar. Also under non-concurrent to “an AUA degree” rather than “one AUA degree”.**
    - **Vote: In favor - unanimous**
  + Ethics & Grievance Committee led by Arto Vaun
    - Two issues that were resolved because they did not specifically relate to the purview of the Ethics & Grievance Committee.
  + Extension Committee led by Mikayel
    - Will come back to this later in the meeting.
  + Student Learning Committee led by Artur
    - Nothing to report.
* Faculty Package for Recruitment and Retention led by Irshat
  + Document was circulated and discussed at the Faculty General Assembly. A few comments were made and a few minor changes were made. Further minor adjustments were discussed in this FS meeting to make the language clearer.
  + Issue with data reported by American University of Paris. The salary rates reported seem low.
  + Flip the benefits table so the benefits are easier to read.
  + Members of this committee will report the data to the Board of Trustees meeting in June.
* Board of Trustees meeting in June - FS representatives
  + **Executive committee proposed names from FS to send to the meeting on Thursday, June 2: Arto, Aleksandr, Jenny, Irshat, David D.**
  + This group will meet to clarify what the FS will present to the BoT. Will meet with the Provost.
* Proposal to support graduate student academic writing needs
  + They do not have a course nor are they served by the Center for Student Success. However, CSS accepts graduate students for assistance according to Garine.
  + If CSS takes on this role officially they would need staff to support this change.
    - Undergraduate students pay a fee that supports CSS. A fee would have to be introduced for graduate students to fund these changes.
  + Suggestion of creating a required graduate writing course, one that would work across the various curricula. Perhaps as a summer course before they begin their courses.
    - It was noted that a course of this nature existed in the past but was discontinued because it was found to be underused and not fully successful/effective.
    - Question: Which program would be in charge of such a course? What would the focus be? Quantitative and/or qualitative writing techniques?
    - Perhaps each discipline needs a writing course that is specific to the nature of their program. They could be a short, one-credit course.
    - LLM, MBA, and CS were not represented at this meeting, although the documents were shared with them. Perhaps a follow-up meeting including these programs.
    - The third suggestion, the idea of a writing course, was currently tabled because of multiple complications.
  + “Create an internal or program-specific support mechanisms…”
  + **Vote for endorsing two suggestions from the proposal (10 Vote against: 1)**
    - **Making the services of the Center for Student Success available to graduate students.**
    - **Creating graduate program-specific support mechanisms for graduate programs to provide effective teaching of academic writing skills across the curriculum to their students.**
* Reelecting FS Secretary will happen by e-vote
* Brown bag research topics for discussion
  + Three topics were submitted for consideration.
  + **FS members voted by anonymous vote for: 1) The Choice of Gender roles and the Perceptions of Gender Violence in regions of Armenia and 2) Enabling Conditions for Inclusive Growth in Armenia**
  + Action: contact faculty and ask to present their work.
* FS meeting in June
  + June 7 sounds like it will work
* Extensions committee
  + Topic tabled to the June 7 meeting due to lack of time and to ensure the appropriate people are in the room for the discussion.
  + Extension oversees two courses that undergraduate students must take but it does not seem there is an individual at Extension who oversees courses and syllabi. So for AUA must be aware of quality assurance issues.
* Meeting ends at 10:28

Minutes taken by Kevin Adkin.

Note: Following the conclusion of the FS meeting the Executive Committee briefly met and reviewed the FS bylaws. It was determined that a new FS Secretary was not necessary at this time. Kevin will not be available for the next meeting scheduled for June 7 and will therefore be marked as ‘absent’. Another member of FS will take the notes for that session.