

Academic Assembly
February 23, 2015
2:05 – 3:35pm, STCN 210

MINUTES

Present: Jeffrey Anderson, David Arnesen, Sarah Bee, Patricia Buchsel, Terri Clark, Brooke Coleman, Isiaah Crawford, Lynn Deeken, Bill Ehmann, Meggie Green, Trish Henley, Arun Iyer, Michael Kinnamon, Kate Koppelman, Chuck Lawrence, Margit McGuire, Carrie Miller, David Neel, Michael Ng, Erik Olsen, Roshanak Roshandel, Rob Rutherford, Dan Washburn

Minutes taken by Rosa Hughes

- I. Review of 2-2-15 Minutes
 - A. Approved with one abstention
- II. Budget Transparency Discussion (*Isiaah Crawford, Bob Dullea, Connie Kanter*)
 - A. Overview
 - 1. Appreciate resolution that AcA put forward in the spirit of shared governance, and hope that in the future this budget reporting will be part of an ongoing process of information sharing
 - 2. Notable amount of requested data is on IR website
 - 3. Most areas requested are answered, and some items needed operational definition (e.g., “administrators”)
 - 4. Found to be a helpful endeavor for leadership, developed previously unused reports that will assist in budget planning in the future
 - 5. Confidential and proprietary information; a summary document may be developed
 - B. General Information
 - 1. The School of New and Continuing Studies (NCS) projects deficit in FY15 and FY16 while launching, and then revenue in FY17 and growth thereafter
 - 2. Academic and Career Advising was not funded in FY15 and will probably not be funded in FY16
 - a. Hopefully funding will be available in the future
 - b. Will continue to look to make improvements to how we advise and mentor students into the world of work and beyond
 - 3. FY15 new funding included market equity and wage pool (vast majority), marketing, School of NCS, capital campaign, public safety improvements, technology updates , transit subsidy for ORCA , life and disability insurance increases, building costs, and business continuity (disaster preparedness)
 - 4. Employment numbers – faculty, staff, administrators
 - a. Administrators was defined to mean Cabinet members, Assistant and Associate VPs, Directors, Associate Directors, and individual exempt positions such as the Controller
 - b. Over a five year period, non-exempt staff decreased minimally, administrator and other exempt grew
 - c. Over ten years, tenured/tenure track and full time non-tenure track (FTNTT) faculty numbers grew, and part time NTT numbers stayed about the same

- d. One goal of AcA is to see how much money is going to the teaching of classes (versus administrative leaves granted at college/school level), which is not currently tracked
- 5. Operating budget FY15
 - a. Athletics has stayed under 5% of total operating budget of university
 - b. SU discounts at a lower rate than our regional peers and is not looking to significantly increase discount rate
 - c. Staff positions are more straightforward for budget projections, whereas faculty budgeting is a much more complicated process (sabbaticals, course sections, etc.)
 - d. Reduction of approximately 95 course sections in FY15 – no contracted FTNTT or tenure track faculty positions were cut
 - e. The university hired a modest number of consultants to provide needed expertise
- 6. Benefits
 - a. SU has not changed medical, dental, vision benefits for over five years, some other benefits have been improved over the past few years such as retirement
 - b. SU does not plan on changing tuition remission for dependents, may look at employee remission benefit
- 7. Enrollment over five years
 - a. Undergraduate increased slightly
 - b. Graduate declined, some areas more than others
 - c. Law dropped significantly
- 8. Retention
 - a. Freshman to Sophomore retention has generally hovered between 86-88% over the past few years
 - b. This past year, we did experience a noteworthy drop among rising Junior students, particularly among those who were transfer students (unclear if this is the start of a trend or an idiosyncratic occurrence)
 - c. Six-year graduation rates remain strong at 78%
- C. AcA will have a follow-up conversation to understand what type of information is needed moving forward

III. Review of Program Review Committee Recommendations

- A. New Program Proposals
 - 1. Certificate in Theological Studies – delayed to next AcA meeting
 - 2. Certificate in Sports Sustainability Leadership (*David Powers, Galen Trail, Brian McCullough*)
 - a. Online certificate will be the first of its kind and appeal to a large international market
 - b. Discussion with program representatives
 - i. 15 credit requirement seems arbitrary for certificate
 - ii. Lacking market research to provide meaningful data on demand
 - iii. The sustainability component is not heavily environmental science driven; rather, three-prong sustainability: social, environmental, and economic
 - iv. The program goal is to educate graduates to be critical thinkers able to sift through pertinent information in a management role
 - v. Impact of sport organizations on sustainability can be greatly impactful
 - c. AcA Discussion
 - i. Concern with lack of market research, especially with cost of tuition
 - ii. Several courses exist as part of their current graduate program

- iii. Most US sports teams have a position for this, looking to branch out internationally, that is why the program is online
- iv. Motion to approve the PRC memo in support of the program – 8 approve, 2 oppose – motion passed

B. Program Revisions

1. Bachelor of Science in Sport and Exercise Science (*David Powers, Eric Dugan*)

a. Discussion with program representatives

- i. Concerns raised at PRC were also raised at AcA
- ii. When program was proposed, there were concerns with the role of science in the program, now some of the changes proposed are viewed as minimizing the role of science in the curriculum
- iii. Physics course is still a requirement
- iv. Grade point requirement was reduced from C to C- for prerequisite courses to be consistent with College of Arts and Sciences standards – does not match requirement in College of Science and Engineering, where many of these courses are held
- v. Combining two biomechanical courses also seems to be reducing science requirements from program – these areas will be covered with the other revisions to the program including partnership with clinics/hospitals

b. AcA Discussion

- i. Still have concerns with the rigor of the program under the revision
- ii. AcA needs to stipulate exact points of clarification and concern to provide to program and dean
- iii. Tabled to next AcA meeting

2. Bachelor of Arts of Interdisciplinary Art with Photography Specialization – delayed to next AcA meeting

IV. Divestment Discussion (*Wes Lauer*)

- A. Last year there was a strong and public movement on the issue of divestment, which was well publicized by students
- B. AcA made a motion to support that movement, but took no further action
- C. Request for an AcA subcommittee to look at this issue further, chaired by Wes Lauer, already have six faculty volunteers ready to serve
- D. Motion to approve subcommittee formation approved with no oppositions or abstentions

V. Academic Strategic Action Plan (ASAP) 2.0 Proposal (*Carol Wolfe Clay*)

- A. AcA supports moving forward with the fora proposed in the document