2019-2020 Academic Assembly (AcA) Motions

AcA20-01 Adoption of Committee on Committees Charter
AcA20-02 Motion on CAS Web Listing of Planned Parenthood
AcA20-03 STM Working Group Membership Appointment
AcA20-04 Board of Trustees Faculty Representative Appointments
AcA20-05 Faculty Handbook Revision Committee – AcA Committee Member Appointment
AcA20-06 School of New and Continuing Studies Working Group Member Appointments
AcA20-07 Adoption of University Rank and Tenure Committee Charter
AcA20-08 Committee on Committees – Vice President of Committees Appointment
AcA20-09 Committee on Committees – Committee Membership Appointment
AcA20-10 Affirmation of University Technology Governance Document
AcA20-01 Adoption of Committee on Committees Charter

Main Motion:

“Committee on Committees Charter Adoption.” – charter drafted by AcA Working Group, in session during the summer break between the 18-19 AY and 19-20 AY.

Main Motion:

“To the President, Provost and Cabinet:

The members of Academic Assembly and faculty, staff, students and alumnae view with dismay the recent actions of President Sundborg which have led to Seattle University officials removing references to Planned Parenthood from the University web pages. These actions were taken in response to the demands of Students for Life of America (SFLA).

While the members of Seattle University community acknowledge and respect the Jesuit ethos and the religious and cultural traditions on which the university was founded, and to which they contribute through their professional endeavors, we also wish to state that we are a diverse and inclusive community of many different faiths and belief systems, including atheists, agnostics, Jews, Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists and Catholics, and many others. Moreover, many committed Catholics respectfully disagree with the social policies of the Catholic Church around sexuality, contraception and other matters. SFLA mischaracterizes Planned Parenthood as simply a provider of abortion services when the organization offers a wide range of healthcare services.

President Sundborg’s censorship of information and resources to our students are an assertion of conservative Catholic authority over faculty and student welfare policy matters and do not recognize the autonomy and special character of academic institutions nor the role of faculty in shared governance. He fails to understand the vital social justice mission that Planned Parenthood plays in women’s health and in our student, staff and faculty lives. This censorship is disrespectful to the academic institution in which we serve, and a profound betrayal of our mission for educating the whole person and empowering our students as leaders for a just and humane world.

We call upon President Sundborg to:

1. Appear at a university-wide community meeting to be called as soon as possible to discuss this matter,
2. Clarify what policy he suggests has justified this action, and
3. Rescind these actions and restore all references to Planned Parenthood to sites in which they were removed.”

- Drafted by Kirsten Thompson (CAS) and introduced on 2019-10-07.
- Note: One week voting rule suspended – Approved AcA Minutes 2019-10-07. III-A-I.

Subsequent & Related Motions

“Motion to table the main motion until next meeting, to give time for AcA members meet with constituents. Seconded. Vote: Approve: 10, Opposed: 9, Abstention: 0.” – Approved AcA Minutes 2019-10-07.III-D-1.

“Motion to suspend one week voting rule, in order to vote on this new [directly below] motion. Seconded. Vote: Approved: 13, Opposed: 3, Abstention: 2.” – Approved AcA Minutes 2019-10-07.III-E-
“Motion to identify a subgroup of AcA to meet with the President and the Provost to discuss a variety of faculty perspectives related to this issue, in preparation for a larger community meeting. Seconded. Vote: Approved: 12, Opposed: 0, Abstention: 7.” – Approved AcA Minutes 2019-10-07.III-E.3.

Formation of subgroup: Bryan Adamson, Mark Taylor, Kirsten Thompson, Patrick Murphy, Margit McGuire.

**Vote on Amendment to Subgroup Motion: Approved.** “Suggestion to also invite Alvin Sturdivant and Theresa Earenfight. Vote: Approved: 19, Opposed: 0, Abstention: 0.”

Motion to “Vote on full group constituency, including five AcA members and two additions via amendment [above]. Seconded. Vote: Approved: 19, Opposed: 0, Abstention: 0.” – Approved AcA Minutes 2019-10-07.III-E.4.

**Amended Main Motion:** (Amendments to Main Motion language made online via Canvas AcA Discussion Group and AcA Meeting Discussion on 19-10-21.)

“**To the President, Provost, Cabinet, and Board of Trustees:**

Members of Academic Assembly have followed with interest and concern recent actions by President Sundborg that have led Seattle University officials to remove references to Planned Parenthood from certain University web pages. These actions were taken in response to demands by Students for Life of America (SFLA), an outside organization.

While the members of Seattle University community acknowledge and respect the Jesuit ethos and the religious and cultural traditions on which the university was founded, and to which they contribute through their professional endeavors, we also wish to state that we are a diverse and inclusive community of many different faiths and belief systems, including Protestants, atheists, agnostics, Jews, Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, Catholics, and many others. Moreover, many committed Catholics respectfully disagree with the social policies of the Catholic Church around sexuality, contraception, and other matters. SFLA mischaracterizes Planned Parenthood as simply a provider of abortion services when the organization offers a wide range of healthcare services and fulfills a vital social justice mission for women’s health.

Removal of information and resources for our students does not recognize the autonomy and special character of academic institutions nor the role of faculty in shared governance.

Academic Assembly has discussed these issues at two weekly meetings and, with the assistance of the Provost, authorized a group of its members to meet with the President, Provost, and Dean of Students. We now call on the Provost to:

1. Invite President Sundborg to participate in a series of fora with the Seattle University community of faculty, staff, and students to discuss the issues raised by this matter.
2. Convene a working group of the Provost, AcA President and Vice Presidents, the President of the Staff Council, the Director of the Women and Gender Studies program, the Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, the Vice President for Student Development, an additional staff representative, two student representatives, and other stakeholders to review the policies and consultative practices of decision making around these issues and to consult with relevant parties. The working group will be invited to draft a policy to protect the rights of employees in
their personal lives and in their job responsibilities when their views may differ from those of the Catholic Church. The working group will bring recommendations for changes back to AcA for wider discussion and a vote.

3. Encourage President Sundborg and senior leadership, together with the Jesuit community, to participate in a series of workshops and/or reading groups on WGST and LGBTQ issues relating to gender, sexuality, and identity.

4. Begin planning a series of faculty-led lectures and discussions for the wider SU community from a variety of disciplinary perspectives around Catholic, Ignatian, Jesuit and mission-related topics, as well as constitutional and legal issues relating to academic freedom, censorship, and public v. private institutions, and that pertinent faculty with specific research expertise be invited to contribute to such a series.

5. Recommend that deleted informational resources on the university website relating to Planned Parenthood be restored, while noting that the provision of such resources does not in any way suggest specific endorsement by the university or the Catholic Church.

**Vote on the Main Motion: Approved.** “Motion to approve amended motion (paper ballot). Seconded. Vote: Approved: 14, Opposed: 4.” – Approved AcA Minutes 19-10-21.VII-B.
AcA20-03 STM Working Group Membership Appointment

STM Working Group: “Convening to consider the future structure of STM and its programs. Proposed Membership:

Co-Chairs: Mark Markuly and Donna Teevan

Vote via Ballot: Membership Approved: Approved: 18, Opposed: 0. – Approved AcA Minutes 19-10-21.IV-A.
AcA20-04 Board of Trustees Faculty Representatives Appointments

Board of Trustees Faculty Representatives:
Nominees:
  • Academic Affairs – Frank Shih (CSE)
  • Finance – Dean Diavatopoulous (ASB)
  • Intercollegiate Athletics Oversight – Chris Paul (CAS)
  • Mission, Inclusion & Culture – Kirsten Thompson (CAS)
  • Brand, Reputation and External Affairs – Sarah Shultz (CAS)
  • Student Development – Misuk Lee (ASB)
  • Investment – Vinay Datar (ASB)
  • Facilities & Technology – Wes Lauer (CSE)

Vote via Ballot: Nominees Approved. Approved: 17, Opposed: 0. – Approved AcA Minutes 19-10-21.IV-B.
AcA Appointee to the Faculty Handbook Revision Committee: “Call for one AcA-appointed faculty position, three-year term. Nominees: Marinilka Kimbro (ASB), Oleh Amah (NCS), Teodora Shuman (CSE).

Vote via Ballot: Teodora Shuman elected as new AcA-appointed representative.” – Approved AcA Minutes 19-10-21.IV-D.
AcA20-06 School of New and Continuing Studies Working Group Member Appointments

Main Motion:

“Motion to Approve appointments to the NCS Working Group.

Proposed Committee Membership
Rick Fehrenbacher (Co-Chair, Dean NCS)
Sarah Watstein (Co-Chair, Dean Library)
Diane Fishel-Hall (NCS, Assoc. Director Admission/Marketing)
Wilson Garone (CFO)
Trish Henley (NCS, Assoc. Dean)
Julie Kang (COE)
Kevin Krycka (CAS)
Kathleen La Voy (Assoc. Provost)
Greg Magnan (ASB)
Travis Nation (Assoc. CIO)
Janet Shandley (Grad. Admission)
McLean Slaughter (CSE)
Jane Snare (CDLI)
Danuta Wojnar (CON)"

Vote on the Main Motion: Approved. “Motion to approve. Seconded. Vote: Approved: 14, Opposed: 0, Abstentions: 1.” – AcA Approved Minutes 19-11-04. IV-M.
AcA20-07 Adoption of University Rank and Tenure Committee Charter

Main Motion:

“Moves to adopt University Rank and Tenure Charter, developed over summer 2019 pursuant to AcA19-39, version dated October 30, 2019. Accept future minor and stylistic edits and insertion of adoption date without further ratification. AcA can veto any future edits. ConC [Committee on Committees] will work with current URTC, school/colleges, and the Provost office to populate the members of the URTC [University Rank and Tenure Committee].”

AcA20-08 Committee on Committees – Vice President of Committees Appointment

Main Motion:

“Election of VP Committees: 1) Needs to be a member of the AcA, 2) VP duties: will serve on the provost’s council, will work closely with the board of trustees, course release for the appointed faculty member, 3) Volunteers: Sara Bee, Dylan Medina, Katie Oliveras.”

Vote on Main Motion via Ballot: “Vote: Sara Bee (appointed as VP of ConC).” – AcA Approved Minutes 19-11-04. V-I-4.
Main Motion: “ConC [Committee on Committees] [Proposed] Membership: Bryan Adamson, Katie Oliveras, Kirsten Thompson & Margit McGuire.”

Main Motion: “Motion to affirm the University Technology Governance Document. AcA Approves the CIO’s [Chief Information Officer] SU [Seattle University] University Technology Governance Proposed Approach (pending minor edits).”

Vote on Main Motion: Approved. Seconded. “Vote: Approved: 18, Opposed: 0, Abstention: 0.”
– AcA Approved Minutes 19-11-18. IV-D.