Academic Assembly  
September 25, 2017  
2:05 – 3:35pm, STCN 130

MINUTES

Present: Pat Buchsel, Felipe Castillo, Terri Clark, Mark Cohan, Marc Cohen, Brooke Coleman, Miles Coleman, Carlos de Mello e Souza, Allison Gibbons, Arie Greenleaf, Leticia Guardiola-Saenz, Kathleen LaVoy, Charles Lawrence, Emily Lieb, Agnieszka Miguel, Michael Ng, Katie Oliveras, Erik Olsen, Tracey Pepper, Frank Shih, Gregory Silverman, Julianne Slate, Colette Taylor, Kirsten Thompson

Minutes taken by Rosa Hughes

I. Welcome and Introductions
   A. Overview of AcA Bylaws
   B. Discussion of AcA role as recommendatory to Provost
      1. Some areas do require AcA approval to move forward, so in these areas we have veto power
      2. The Chart of Authorizations, outlining these areas of approval, can be modified via the Faculty Handbook revision process
      3. Revision process can begin in Academic Assembly and then move to Faculty Handbook Revision Committee as a formal proposal

II. Representative Appointments
   A. Academic Assembly Vice President for Program Review Committee
      1. Terri Clark nominated
         a. Approved with no oppositions or abstentions
   B. Four faculty representatives to Budget Advisory Committee
      1. Sarah Bee will serve one appointment
      2. Nominees: Colette Taylor, Erik Olsen, Pat Buchsel
         a. Approved with no oppositions or abstentions
   C. Two faculty representatives to Provost-Appointed Innovation Committee
      1. Discussion
         a. We can estimate revenues for new programs reasonably well, but we have trouble estimating costs
      2. Nominee: Katie Oliveras
         a. Approved with no oppositions or abstentions
      3. For future appointments, need more information about when committee meets
   D. One faculty representative on Student Development Committee (subcommittee of Board of Trustees)
      1. Nominee: Mark Cohan
         a. Approved with no oppositions or abstentions
   E. One representative to Administrator Evaluation Committee
      1. Nominee: Arie Greenleaf
         a. Approved with no oppositions or abstentions
   F. Additional Appointments
      1. Two representatives needed for search committee for Director of Career Services
         a. One graduate faculty member and one undergraduate faculty member
         b. Do not necessarily need to be on Academic Assembly, just appointed by AcA
c. Committee will meet a few times in late October/early November, with candidates coming to campus in January

d. Need these appointments by first week of October

2. Also looking for a Director of University Core
   a. Need clarity on whether the Core Executive Committee is continuing this year

III. Brainstorming Session – Issues for the Year (small groups)

A. Increase ratio of tenure track to non-tenure track faculty – benchmark where we are in relation to other institutions

B. Work on faculty complaint process – current grievance committee process is not working

C. Improve admissions, simplify process and speed it up, receive materials directly from students

D. Corporatization of the university, concerned with budget crisis and not losing academic quality and our soul/mission

E. Summer teaching – in some colleges, push to not allow established faculty to teach in the summer, or teach less in the summer

F. Concern about faculty voice in decision-making, including why the focus of unionization effort is only on non-tenure track and not broadened to all faculty

G. Evaluate the scope and responsibility of the assembly with the goal of a more equitable, balanced relationship with the Provost

H. Disadvantage that non-tenure track faculty face when their position is turned into a tenure track position with a national search

I. Budget issues
   1. Deans dividing a full time course teaching load into two part time non-tenure track positions
   2. Patterns of revenue flow that disincentivize deans to have innovative courses and programs to the public to generate revenues (colleges pay expenses and funds go directly to university)

J. Help develop faculty handbook for every college and school, which would be subsidiary to university faculty handbook

K. Provost Search Committee – need to be kept up on status

L. Invite Fr. Steve for update on unionization issue

M. Inclusivity and diversity
   1. Needs to be resourced appropriately by university
   2. More access to training for current and new faculty
   3. Make available for adjuncts as well, making sure accountability process in place

N. Adjunct faculty pay – needs to match market rate, concern of students and faculty

O. Communication and interaction with committees
   1. AAOR, lots of work put into report, not sure what actions or deliverables have come from it
   2. Leadership council, would like to receive more reports and communication about what decisions are being made, with advice on how to communicate with students as well

P. Budgetary and data transparency, as university downsizes strategically, we need broad information to be able to judge and advise on strategic decisions

Q. Program Review Committee – should this be the place where we participate in economic decision-making, or should there be another place where this happens?

R. Access to data that is consistent across the university so that we know what we are talking about to be contributing partners

S. Expand authorization authority of AcA
T. Campus climate, need to have information about how to address rising issues – hate speech, rising tensions on campus

IV. Review 6-5-17 Minutes
A. Minutes approved with no oppositions and nine abstentions (new representatives and ex-officio members)