

**Academic Assembly**  
January 30, 2017  
2:05 – 3:35pm, STCN 130

**MINUTES**

Present: Sarah Bee, Pat Buchsel, Felipe Castillo, Brooke Coleman, Carlos de Mello e Souza, Mike Huggins, Kate Koppelman, Chuck Lawrence, Emily Lieb, Viviane Lopuch, Agnieszka Miguel, David Neel, Michael Ng, Erik Olsen, Trung Pham SJ, Frank Shih, John Strait, Colette Taylor, Charles Tung, Braden Wild

- I. Review of 1-9-17 Minutes
  - A. Approved with one abstention
- II. Ombudsperson Discussion (*McKenna Lang*)
  - A. MRC Issue
    - 1. MRC faculty were not aware of Ombudsperson
    - 2. Explore ways to be more proactive before situations escalate – open to ideas of how to do this better in the future
  - B. This year, there were 16 inquiries from staff and students – Ombuds office is not authorized to serve these populations
  - C. The Ombuds office is open to consult with the ongoing bullying committee work of AcA
- III. Canvas AcA Launch/Methods/Practices
  - A. Two Canvas groups: the main AcA group for all faculty at SU, and a group of just current AcA members
  - B. The smaller group will begin to review policy edits and program reviews that are deemed “routine” by the respective subcommittees
  - C. Can also use this smaller group for wordsmithing of AcA proposals, statements, etc.
  - D. Already a provision in the bylaws for voting online – Erik will see if we need anything changed in the bylaws to accommodate this new process
- IV. Discussion of AcA Statement on Priorities in Times of Austerity
  - A. Discussion
    - 1. We do not have enough transparency to know if the numbers given to us are accurately representative of how the budget functions – we do not see what other areas are cutting
    - 2. Course caps being raised is being considered – would not create a large amount of revenue, but would directly affect student experience
    - 3. SGSU is concerned about student academic services being cut
    - 4. Perhaps it is time for AcA to ask for cost/benefit analysis of non-academic programs
  - B. Statement specifics
    - 1. General statement that budget cuts have to start with an analysis of cost
    - 2. Have to focus on revenue analysis instead of just raw numbers – what are we cutting and why?
    - 3. Need to change budgeting system to match current economy
    - 4. Need to make a decision about how institution functions
    - 5. Need complete budget transparency
    - 6. Do not specifically call out athletics, focus instead on larger issues of budget transparency
    - 7. Need more student input and more budget detail
- V. Administrator Evaluation Committee (*Jen Marrone*)

- A. Committee recommendation to bring in a consultant to assist with the rollout of the evaluation process – could be many potential roadblocks about how to do this internally
  - B. Funding request will be submitted
  - C. Process needs to be as transparent as possible
  - D. University has incurred large cost for outside consultants historically, with variable experience
- VI. New Program Proposal: Minor in Environmental Science (*Wes Lauer, Mike Quinn*)**
- A. Overview
    - 1. Interdisciplinary science background
    - 2. Available to students from other colleges
    - 3. Research courses in the minor allow opportunity for students in physics, etc. to apply their studies
    - 4. Geographic Information Systems course is another version of existing GIS course (offered by the Environmental Studies program), will be taught together but with different learning outcomes
  - B. Discussion
    - 1. Relationship with Environmental Studies program
      - a. The shared course went through both program’s curriculum committees
      - b. Learning outcomes for each program can be addressed in the same class
      - c. Students in Environmental Science will no longer take the short Environmental Studies GIS Introduction course
  - C. AcA Discussion
    - 1. Environmental Studies program faculty feel good about this collaboration, but there are conflicting ideas about the one shared GIS course – a concern but not a major one
    - 2. Motion to approve memo contingent on consultation with Environmental Studies program – approved with no oppositions or abstentions
- VII. Terminate Four Science and Engineering/Matteo Ricci Joint Programs**
- A. Four programs that have never enrolled students in 10 years (one enrolled three students ten years ago, all are empty now)
  - B. Termination approved by both deans and no issues with college faculty
  - C. Approved with no oppositions or abstentions