

*Minutes*  
*Faculty Senate Meeting*  
*October 4, 2017*

**\*\*\* The complete Recording for this meeting can be found by clicking [here](#).**

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Present: Professors: Andrea Pearson, Elizabeth Worden, Todd Eisenstadt, Anthony Ahrens, Karen Baehler, Kyle Brannon, Chuck Cox, Stefano Costanzi, John Douglas, Chris Edelson, Bryan Fantie, Doug Fox, Max Friedman, John Heywood, Derrick Jefferson, Ken Knight, Emily Lindsey, Mohamed Nimer, Zehra Peynircioglu, Jim Quirk, Cathy Schaeff, Richard Sha, Shalini Venturelli, Provost Scott Bass and DAA Mary L. Clark

### **Chair's Report - Andrea Pearson**

Professor Pearson welcomed all Senators and guests to the meeting. The meeting began at 2:38 PM. Professor Pearson informed the Senate that all voting will be done using a new digital system.

**September 13, 2017 Minutes Approval** – Professor Pearson opened the floor for discussion. There was no discussion and the Senators **VOTED** 19-0-1 in favor.

Professor Pearson gave the following updates:

- The Term Faculty and other manual changes have been completed with the Board of Trustees subcommittee and are being prepared for the final Board of Trustees review. DAA Clark stated that they are under review by Legal Counsel.
- There will be two townhalls for term faculty to discuss the possible unionization. They will be held on October 16 & 17. A formal notification will be sent out with times and locations. A member from the Union (SEIU), Anne McLeer, and Associate Vice-Provost William M. LeoGrande who oversees the adjunct faculty union will be present.
- Professor Pearson along with past Senate chair Larry Engel met with Makeba Clay, the Presidents outside consultant on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. They discussed the Senate's roll and participation with the President's Council on Diversity and the development of the new Senate committee devoted to the same.
- The new ITS working group has been formed and Elizabeth Worden will be leading the group to address the suggestions received from the spring pilot data.
- The use of resolutions is the strongest way the senate can express their position on items that are important on actions the Senate takes. They go forward to the Board of Trustees in an action report. This year we will reserve the use of resolutions for items of deepest importance.

## **AU Core Update – Jessica Waters and Cindy Bair Van Dam**

Dean of Undergraduate Education Jessica Waters reminded Senators that the AU Core was voted upon and approved at the February 2017 meeting by the Senate. At that meeting the AU Core committee members agreed to return periodically to update the Senate on implementation progress and other issues that may arise. Dean Waters, Professors Andrea Brenner, Cindy Bair Van Dam and Director of Student Success & Assessment Jimmy Ellis all assisted in presenting on the following:

- Approval of the Sub-Committees for the core will need to be voted on by the Senate
- Updates will include fall implementation, curricular planning, overview of first year advising and AUx update and Assessment results.

Further information can be obtained by listening to the recording from this meeting. The recording can be accessed [here](#).

## **Standing Committee on Diversity and Inclusion Bylaws – Shalini Venturelli**

Professor Venturelli stated that the spirit of this committee is to develop indicatives in Diversity and Inclusion and to ensure that it does not replicate other efforts at the administrative and unit level. Discussion on an acronym was finalized on FacCDI and the chair of this committee will be a voting member of the Senate as instructed in the membership section of the Senate by-laws. The Senate **VOTED** 21-0-1 in favor.

## **Resolution on Syllabus Content – Todd Eisenstadt**

Professor Eisenstadt initiated the conversation of adding a disclaimer to the syllabus on reporting bias and discrimination against groups and individuals. The Senate discussed several language changes, diverse ways to approach the options of communicating through the president's website, and the importance of accountability for all. With revisions to the original language the Senate **VOTED** 19-2-2 in favor on the following resolution:

*The Faculty Senate lauds the creation of the President's website for Diversity and Inclusion and calls on the new FacCDI to develop a set of procedures for faculty to follow in implementing the website's objectives in reporting alleged bias. They will report back to Senate in a timely manner.*

## **Discussion on Faculty Role in Evaluation of Administrators – Todd Eisenstadt**

Professor Eisenstadt presented to the Senate language for continued discussion on the Evaluation of Administrators. The discussion included confirmation from Provost Bass that faculty in units have the right to hold a vote of no confidence against administrators and it would be appropriate to include this language in the Senate by-laws. After discussion the Senate decided to take a vote on the "sense of the Senate" to bring revised language back to the Senate for approval for the by-laws. The Senate **VOTED** 14-4-5 in favor.

### **New Title IX Hire and Faculty Data – Mary L. Clark**

DAA Clark stated that there have been a larger number of bias complaints from students, staff and faculty. As a result, a new hire in the DAA's office is being hired to assist in the investigation process of the complaints against faculty. The individual will make proposed recommendations to the DAA. The Faculty Manual clearly directs the final decision to be made by the DAA.

Professor Pearson asked DAA Clark if she could provide the update on current faculty data at the next meeting due to the tight schedule of the meeting. DAA Clark agreed.

### **Unionization Update – Associate Vice Provost Bill LeoGrande**

VP LeoGrande gave an overview of his role with current unions on campus with the adjunct professors and the graduate students. He stated that the SEIU has been engaged in organizing a drive to unionize the university's term faculty. He described the efforts that the university has made to improve the term faculty's role at AU and some of the legal implications unionizing could have. The university will be setting up a website for term faculty to learn more about the issues and exchange views. He asked that the Senators to encourage their colleagues to attend one of the Senate townhalls to become informed.

### **Student Rally – Scott Bass**

Provost Bass informed the Senate that the climate of the most recent rally held by Student Government and the Anti-Racism Center was more positive in tone than at similar events in the past. Those present were passionate about working together as one community. He stated that there is a lot of work to be done, but it was a proud moment to see the growth and the stand for solidarity said so well and by so many.

### **Guest Speakers in the Classroom: Protecting Faculty and Students – Andrea Pearson**

Professor Pearson stated that Provost Bass had requested that guidelines be written to address guest speakers in the classroom. The proposed language was drafted to direct a clear process of how to protect students, faculty and guests when controversial issues are presented in the classroom. After concluding that further consultation with VP Fanta Aw from Campus Life, the decision was made to bring the draft back to the Senate.

### **The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 PM**