

*Minutes*  
*Faculty Senate Meeting*  
*December 7, 2016*

**\*\*\* The complete Recording for this meeting can be found at <http://www.american.edu./facultysenate/agendas-minutes.cfm>**

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Present: Professors: Todd Eisenstadt, Larry Engel, Andrea Pearson, Karen Baehler, David Banks, Rachel Borchardt, Kyle Brannon, Stefano Costanzi, Tim Doud, John Douglass, Chris Edelson, Bryan Fantie, Maria Gomez, John Heywood, Olivia Ivey, Kelly Joyner, Ken Knight, Emily Lindsay, Jun Lu, Steve Silvia, Kate Wilson, Zehra Peynircoioglu, Shalini Venturelli, DAA Mary L. Clark.

Professor Eisenstadt opened the meeting at 2:35 PM.

**Chair's Report – Todd Eisenstadt**

**Minutes Approval for Nov 2, 2016** – Professor Eisenstadt asked the Senate for approval of the November 2, 2016 minutes. He opened the floor for discussion. There was no discussion and the Senate **VOTED** 23-0-0 in favor.

**Next Steps on the Grade Inflation Committee (GIC)** – Professor Eisenstadt stated that at the end of last year's Spring semester the GIC presented their report and now the Senate would like to implement a new committee to move forward with the recommendations. He also stated that Professor Fantie has agreed to chair the committee and Professor Brannon, a member from the original committee, has agreed to continue working on the new committee. Professor Eisenstadt asked that a smaller committee be pulled together and a list of members be brought back to the Senate in Feb.

**RiSE Update – Larry Engel** – Professor Engel stated that the Faculty Engagement Committee met and had a deep conversation on bringing faculty and students together to get to know one another on a more personal level. It was discussed to occasionally change locations for office hours to a more comfortable setting other than in a professor's office, getting together for a coffee and lunch. The idea of "breaking bread" would be to have faculty, staff and students have a lunch together in the dining room with a possible "trigger question" or just an open conversation. It was agreed that some form of assessment is needed to determine what the future would be for this model.

Professor Eisenstadt asked the Senators to consider working at one of the two tables at the Presidents holiday reception. An email was sent out with a link to sign up for 30 minute increments.

University Registrar (UR) McKenna stated that the spring rollout for the Input on Teaching from Students (ITS) had a record low response rate. To improve the fall responses, email reminders were sent to all professors who taught a fall class, the deans, associate deans and the ThreeD list prior to the survey opening date. UR McKenna explained how the survey runs including some input on how to customize the process or how the process runs if no customization is done.

## **Provost Report – Scott Bass & Mary L. Clark**

Dean Clark made the following announcements:

- A notice has been sent out to announce a Faculty Learning Community that addresses race and their intersections. This will be presented by Fanta Aw and Celine Marie-Pascale.
- Target of Opportunity (TOP) – The Provost Office has drafted a report to begin the idea of having this tool to assist with diversity and how to apply this in the faculty searches. TOP would also allow opportunity to expedite the possible hiring of a “Stellar” candidate in an expeditious way.

Dean Holcomb-McCoy from the School of Education stated that the ultimate outcome of TOP is to be able to attract an outstanding scholar in a timely manner. The AAUP states that this is not a process that should be used frequently and would be used mainly when the candidate could be lost when using the usual hiring practice. Dean Holcomb-McCoy stated, to be clear, that this process is not a search but an opportunity to hire someone who has indicated they would like to leave their current institution and to bypass the usual search process. Further process information was stated and Dean Holcomb-McCoy opened the floor for discussion.

## **Staff Council Leadership Presentation Update – Andrea Pearson & Keesha Ceran**

Professor Pearson stated as part of the RiSE initiative to connect faculty and staff, Keesha Ceran, Assistant Director of Administration and the One Card Program in Housing and Dining and co-chair of Staff Council reached out to the Senate leadership to extend an invitation to their last meeting. Professor Pearson attended and spoke with Keesha after the meeting and invited her to the Senate meeting to share with all senators what Staff Council will be working on towards the student experience RiSE initiative and bringing faculty and staff together.

Assistant Director (AD) Keesha Ceran gave an overview of Staff Council (SC), their membership and current and future initiatives. She also stated that after many of the unfortunate events that had occurred over the summer and being reached out to from members of faculty and staff of color, the committee discussed reaching out to the Senate to combine both staff and faculty and find ways to work together to address the needs of constituents and the campus climate. AD Ceran informed the Senate that it is the hopes of Staff Council to address these concerns but as well take this opportunity to blend together the Senate and Staff Council for future endeavors. Courtney Pollack from SC will attend future Senate meetings and AD Ceran stated that SC meets the first and third Tuesday's of each month from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm usually in MGC 245 which are open meetings for anyone to attend.

## **Expectations and Guidelines for Faculty Conduct – Lydia Fettig**

Professor Lydia Fettig stated that this document has been reviewed by many individuals and offices across campus. The Senate discussed a couple of questions on clarity about the document and agreed that the last version with small friendly amendments was ready to vote on. The Senate **VOTED** 22-0-0 in favor.

### **Counseling Center Services – Traci Callandrillo & Rachel Wernicke**

Director of the University Counseling Center Traci Callandrillo and Rachel Wernicke, Associate Director (AD) of Clinical Services thanked the Senate for the invitation to speak. She stated that the intention of the presentation is to inform the Senate of the services that are available to students as well as clarify some previous misinterpreted information.

AD Wernicke began the presentation by stating that the counseling center at AU is a primary mental healthcare facility. Services include evaluation and assessments which can be regularly scheduled assessments or urgent assessments. Some individual treatment and group treatments are available. The center has limitations which would be short term care, but being inundated with the community we have affiliates we can refer students to for long term care.

AD Callandrillo stated that services are free. There has been some concern expressed on the waiting time for services and this is complicated. There has become a significant demand for mental health treatment which has caused longer wait times than the center would like to have but resources are limited. We do address all urgent assessments when they come but have had to take them to other facilities if necessary. AD Callandrillo informed the Senators that the center is available for consultation on how to help with student's mental health issues and understanding their needs, who to go to, and what are the right avenues to take. Further questions and answers were addressed amongst the Senators.

### **Campus Climate after Election and Prior to Presidential Inauguration – Todd Eisenstadt**

Professor Eisenstadt initiated a conversation on the campus climate. He stated that after the elections there has been several issues on campus. The question is what do we want to do about these issues and how the senate might address them. Invited to participate in this discussion was Professors Patrick Jackson & David Eisser who had sent a petition around campus expressing their unhappiness with the university's response to the campus issues and as well Student Government President Devonte Torriento. After lengthy discussion with the guests and participation from the senators and other guests, it was discussed that it was in the best interest of all to orchestrate a discourse that will include the community because of the election results and those other campus issues.

Professor Eisenstadt presented to the Senate a resolution to implement a student/faculty "teach-in" prior to the inauguration to present and speak on these key issues. The Senate was presented with Professor Eisenstadt's resolution and after lengthy discussion, the following resolution was drafted, **VOTED** on and passed 20-0-0. The resolution reads;

*In coordination with groups inside and outside of American University, prior to the presidential inauguration the Faculty Senate will organize a university community teach-in.*

**The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.**