

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

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

Professor Pearson welcomed everyone to the meeting. She introduced President Sylvia Matthews Burwell, the university's 15th President.

President Burwell thanked the Senators for their service to the University as members of the Faculty Senate. She reiterated the three questions that were sent out prior to the meeting. The questions were: 1) What distinguishes AU, 2) What is the one thing that must change, 3) What is the one thing that must stay the same? Additionally, she requested to spend a few minutes on the question of, "the most effective ways for her to engage with faculty." These questions are important to grounding the priorities are of this institution. What is the future of student learning? What is the future of employment and the economics of higher education? What is our role in civil engagement? Discussion followed.

#### **Undergraduate Regulation Changes and AU Core Special Populations – Jessica Waters**

VP Waters presented two regulations changes:

A) **10.1.2 (Honors Program) – Honors in the Major.** Request for language to enable a lower GPA than 3.67 for graduation and notation on transcripts if approved by the academic unit and Provost. The Senate **VOTED** 16-3-2.

B) **5.1.4 & 5.6 – Latin Honors** – GPAs are not rounded and will be truncated.

Clarifying language to this effect was added. The Senate **VOTED** 20-1-0.

**AU Core Special Populations** – VP Waters presented an informational memo about arrangements made for special undergraduate populations. They are subject to future revision.

#### **Academic Integrity Code Revisions – Jessica Waters and Alison Thomas**

VP Waters stated the need to make a uniform policy across the units for adjudication of the AIC. Professor Alison Thomas will work with faculty and other administrators across the university to this end. Professor Eisenstadt stated that discussion was held in the Executive Committee about combining an honor code with this policy since there currently is no honor code at the university.

Senators expressed interest in liaising with the AIC revisions committee for purposes of communication and development.

## **Guest Speakers in the Classroom: Protecting Faculty and Students – Fanta Aw**

VP Aw stated that the current policy has been the protocol for campus life for a long time. It is important that faculty know that by no means is this policy mandated for the classroom, but it can be used as a reference tool for faculty. VP Aw gave examples of AU expectations from speakers, how to handle controversial issues, and partnering with Public Safety. Discussion followed.

## **AU Connects: Resources for Faculty – Rebecca Coughlin**

Associate Director Rebecca Coughlin presented to the Senate a brief overview of the development of AU Connects. This resource allows for faculty and staff to request a trained individual to be present to facilitate discussion on uncomfortable or controversial topics. The hope would be to assist those who do not have training to be able to call on someone who does. The original idea inspired from the most recent campus issues of race and ethnicity experienced last spring and this fall. Further questions or scheduling a facilitator can be sent to [auconnects@american.edu](mailto:auconnects@american.edu).

## **Faculty Data Report – Mary L. Clark**

DAA Clark stated that as instructed by the faculty manual, the DAA will present statistics of faculty populations annually. She presented the numbers and opened the floor for questions. Discussion followed.

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

Professor Pearson stated the following;

- a) Approval of the October minutes. The Senate **VOTED** 20-0-1
- b) The Term Faculty townhalls went well.
- c) Senate Committees have been asked to re-balance their memberships to adhere to the staggered terms noted in the bylaws and this will be completed soon.
- d) The Term Faculty Affairs Committee and Faculty Committee on Diversity and Inclusion elections were completed today. The committees will be meeting shortly to start their work. Additionally, the vice chair of the Senate will start overseeing all Senate Committees and their work by checking in once a semester with a questionnaire to evaluate the work of the committees and assist with any problems or concerns.

## **Provost's Report – Scott Bass**

Provost Bass stated as a follow up on the discussion of collaboration across units, this initiative is being worked on as a result of the 2030 project. A sub committee chaired by DAA Clark has been working on this topic and he stated a memo will be coming out shortly to the faculty. He fully supports this and will be working with the deans and associate deans to support the opportunity.