

**Minutes
Faculty Senate Meeting
November 3, 2021**

The complete Recording for this meeting can be found at:

<https://myau.american.edu/groups/Committee/fs/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

Present: Professors: Garret Martin, John Heywood, Lillian Baeza-Mendoza, Rebecca Hazen, David Haaga, Britta Peterson, Laura Beers, Robert Hauswald, Randall Blair, Mirjana Morosini, Alan Levine, Nikhat Ghouse, Benjamin Leff, Shawn Bates, Jim Quirk, Richard Shaw, Elizabeth Cotter, Kelly Joyner, Mike Cabot, Rhonda Zaharna, Cathy Schaeff, Gabriel Mathy, Mauro Tiso, Olivia Ivey, Elissa Margolin, Carolyn Parker, Jennifer Steele, Provost Peter Starr, DOF Monica Jackson.

Chair's Report – Garret Martin

The Chair of the Faculty Senate, Professor Martin (SIS), began the meeting promptly, sharing the following information with senators and guests:

- The Freedom of Expression Working Group (FEWG), led by Thomas Merrill and Regina Curran, started their work this past month. The plan is for the group to come to the Faculty Senate and provide an update. This would also be a good opportunity for the Senate to provide input.
- The Faculty Senate continues their reflection on meeting modality for next academic year (in person, online, hybrid).
- The Middle States Accreditation process will be a significant task for the university. Karen Frosli-Jones will visit the Faculty Senate in December to discuss how AU will prepare for this process.
- Professor Martin encouraged all senate committees to look at a succession plan to prepare for sudden changes. Having a chair and a vice-chair or two co-chairs on the committee are good models to adopt.

The Chair's report continued with a review of the minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting from October 2021. The Senate **VOTED** 23-0-0 in favor.

Honors Advisory Director Bylaw Language Changes– Garret Martin and Jessica Waters

Professor Martin and Dean Waters presented a proposal to make some language changes in the Faculty Senate bylaws in relation to the existing practices of the Honors Advisory Committee. In addition, these changes in language would add clarity on the term limit and appointment process of the Director of the Honors Program. This proposal is an attempt to address discrepancies between the Faculty Senate bylaws and existing practices. The Senate **VOTED** 22-0-1 in favor.

President Burwell's Fall Presentation - President Sylvia Matthews Burwell

President Burwell thanked the Faculty Senate and the whole AU community for all the hard work during this first semester back on campus.

President Burwell provided an update on recent activities this semester: More than 3,000 parents attended the All-American Weekend, she has visited the dorms of first-year and second-year students this semester, and COVID testing and tracing continues.

In addition to this update on the current state of American University, President Burwell touched upon the next steps for the Strategic plan, the capital campaign, and the University focus on research. She also provided insights about the process that led to the permanent appointment of the Provost.

Following this update, the Faculty Senate then engaged in a conversation with President Burwell in the topic of shared governance.

University Budget Process and Priorities - Peter Starr & Bronté Burleigh-Jones

Bronté Burleigh-Jones (CFO, Vice President and Treasurer) and Provost Peter Starr presented an update on the AU Two-Year Budget Process. This presentation touched upon the following:

- The budget process is underway. The process will be going back to a 2-year cycle, and will align all resources with the university goals.
- There are several townhall events planned with the AU community to update everyone on the budget and to receive input: Faculty sessions: November 15, 17, and 19. Staff sessions: November 19, 22, and 23. Student session: November 23.
- It is important to move forward with new levels of transparency regarding the budget and decisions.
- Budget focuses on college affordability, research and the strategic plan, inclusive excellence, and salaries, among others.

Provost's Report – Peter Starr

Provost Starr reported on the following items:

- The Provost's Distinguished Lecture Series will continue. The next event will feature Caty Borum Chattoo on November 17.
- The Fall 2021 Provost's Open Forums are underway. One event on "Supporting Term Faculty" was held on October 28. There will be another one on November 3rd on "Teaching for the Future of Work", and a session titled "Building AU Research" will take place on November 15.
- A new, honorific title has been created, Provost Associate Professor/Librarian, to honor a select few associate professors of exceptional merit and service.
- Peter and Bronté are in the process of creating a Space Management Committee.

For the Good of the Order – Garret Martin

Professor Martin shared with the Faculty Senate that Jeff Wang (Vice Provost of Global and Immersive Studies) has been invited to the next senate meeting to talk about OGIS.

The remainder of the meeting was held in Closed Executive Session which is only open to voting senators.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10pm