Faculty Senate Meeting

November 17, 2016

* Quorum called at 16:05
  + Present
    - Gayane Barseghyan
    - Mane Beglaryan
    - David Davidian
    - Gagik Gabrielyan
    - Louisa Harutyunyan
    - Tsovinar Harutyunyan
    - Aram Keryan
    - Irshat Madyarov
    - Hayk Mamajanyan
    - Elham Shayegh
    - Arto Vaun
  + Excused/Absent:
    - Arthur Khalatyan
    - Jenny Patuyan
  + Absent
    - Agassi Manoukian
    - Natella Mirzoyan
    - Karen Sarkavagyan
    - Vahram Ter-Matevosyan
  + Guests
    - Simon Clarke
    - Sharistan Melkonian
* Approval of the agenda
  + Unanimous approval
* Approval of the minutes from October 27, 2016
  + Changes and corrections were suggested
  + Unanimous approval
* Short discussion on removing the military deferment from the graduate admission document and adding it to the admission policies on the AUA website. The change was approved (Yes: 9 No: 0 Abstain: 2).
* Reports from Committees:
  + Curriculum Committee
    - Will meet in the late November and report in the early December.
  + Ethics & Grievance Committee by Arto Vaun
    - No current cases.
  + Student Learning Committee
    - The student learning survey is in progress, will be conducted soon.
  + Committee on implementing recruitment and retention faculty packages by Irshat Madyarov
    - The committee has been working on recommendations for issues including faculty relocation allowance, salaries, and housing. The three groups are working to create a draft proposal before January when the next year’s budget is approved:
      1. **Finances**: Having inquired the HR department about the faculty health insurance, they learnt that the faculty members can use different health care providers recognized by the university (or their own personal insurance), pay the expenses, and then go through the payment procedure with the HR department.
      2. **Faculty and family support**:
         * Could use the surveys conducted by IRO department on the new faculty orientation to reflect on the new faculty’s initial experience at AUA.
      3. **Professional development**: will meet before the end of November.
  + Extension Committee by Tsovinar Harutyunyan:
    - Working to finalize the student charges against AUA
    - Meeting with Sergey Tantushyan
    - Seeking specific definition of EC responsibilities/charges which have not been updated on the website (the newest version is from 2007)
  + Executive Committee met last week.
    - Discussion of the “Specific Tactics to be Initiated” for the Action Priorities of 2016-2017. What actions should be taken regarding each goal?
      1. Goal 1.9. (the Information Literacy and Writing Across the Curriculum) to be handled by the *Student Learning Committee*.
      2. Goal 2.2. the *Faculty Research and Teaching Awards* team has been working on this goal.
      3. Goal 3.1. progressing.
      4. Goal 4.1. progressing.
      5. Goal 4.3. The recommended actions:
         * Forming a work-group of FS members to study the possible FS compositions and benchmark against peer institutions.
         * Coming up with a list of faculty members with past experience serving in the FS abroad/US and invite them to participate in the work group.
    - FS Discussion:
      * + It is necessary to define the scope and responsibilities of the FS
        + A work-group will start studying both the AUA FS (its current by-laws and duties) and the FS of the universities in the US,
        + Gayane Barseghyan, Gagik Gabrielyan, Elham Shayegh, and Arto Vaun agreed to start this work-group.
        + The group is open to other members and the faculty who have experience serving in the FS abroad.
* Faculty evaluation: Discussion
  + Why is evaluation necessary?
    - It is a way of building up and measuring one’s professional and academic development
    - It can tie into the faculty promotion and contract renewal
    - Most cases of *Ethics and Grievance* committee are related to the renewal of contract; without an organized evaluation system it is difficult to make a decision about the cases.
  + Why is evaluation unnecessary? Or a better way of asking the question is what kind of evaluation is unnecessary?
    - Evaluations that are too time consuming or complicated
    - Evaluations that are not connected to the general goal and orientation of the AUA
  + What methods could be used?
    - HR Web and other web-based platforms were suggested
    - The AUA old model could be revised and used
    - The FS voted in favor of the old model (Yes: 10 No: 0 Abstain: 1)
    - Enquire the Provost’s opinion on the subject before implementing the suggestion.
    - To form a work-group to work on the old system of evaluation and update it based on the current needs and academic goals.
* General Faculty Assembly: to be scheduled in the mid December. The calendar will be circulated and date will be decided based on everyone’s availability.
* Meeting ended at 17:40.

Minutes taken by Elham Shayegh.