Faculty Senate Meeting

February 23, 2016

* Quorum called at 9:05
  + Present
    - Kevin Adkin
    - Irshat Madyarov
    - Arto Vaun
    - Don Fuller
    - Hayk Mamajanyan
    - Aram Keryan
    - David Davidian
    - Jenny Paturyan
    - Tsovinar Harutyunyan
    - Mikayel Tovmasyan
    - Gayane Barseghyan
    - Ara Chalabyan
    - Artur Khalatyan
  + Absent
    - Varduhi Petrosyan
    - Simon Clarke
    - Arthur Dolmajian
    - Aleksandr Grigoryan
  + Guests
    - Provost Randall Rhodes
    - Shari Melkonian
    - Catherine Buon
* Approval of the agenda
* Approval of minutes from the January 27, 2016 meeting
* Reports from Committees:
  + Executive Committee led by Irshat Madyarov
    - Review of bylaws regarding committee note-taking and distribution of minutes
  + Curriculum Committee with Catherine Buon
    - Met Feb 4. Discussed the development of potential new standing committee who oversees ‘student standing’. Individuals who would review student probation, auditing courses, extensions, and dismissals . CC would then be able to focus more on the curriculum. Looking to standardize, improve consistency, and fully implement the policies in place. Students would be able to appeal to this committee.
      * ACTION: “Academic standards committee” was a proposed name
      * ACTION: need to have a charge for this potential new standing committee
    - Math entrance exam has issues of validity, reliability - especially the issue that all the exam questions and answers are available in the Armenian market. The CC recommends that an alternative be found. Alternative must consider costs as SAT may be cost prohibitive. Buying new questions for the current exam is also expensive.
  + Ethics & Grievance Committee led by Arto Vaun
    - No current cases.
    - Members will draft a note to Provost regarding a potential grey area found in the review process.
  + Extension Committee led by Mikayel Tovmasyan
    - Drafting new charge that can be circulated before next meeting.
  + Student Learning Committee with Arthur Khalatyan
    - Brown bag topic: formative assessment and feedback; frameworks and strategies
    - Armen Mkrtchyan has been replaced in FS and there is a vacancy in this committee.
  + Faculty Package for Recruitment and Retention led by Irshat Madyarov
    - Brown bag discussion last week elicited interesting feedback that can inform the working document. This will inform the report and recommendations that will be distributed for the March FS meeting.
    - ACTION: distribute report prior to next meeting
* AUA bylaws regarding note taking
  + All committees and standing committees are supposed to take notes for each meeting. All notes are supposed to be archived and accessible for review.
  + Noted that some standing committees (such as Ethics and Grievance and Curriculum Committee) must take and report notes as a part of the accreditation process.
  + Noted that faculty, student, or staff must be made aware of discussions and actions that could affect life here at AUA.
  + ACTION: executive committee should review the bylaws again and if any changes are necessary to the bylaw wording to ensure all standing and ad-hoc committees keep minutes.
* The Conflict of Interest for Administration, Faculty, and Staff led by Shari Melkonian
  + Document was shared via email prior to meeting.
  + Revisions are to clarify and specify the ‘services rendered/provided’ (i.e., a faculty member cannot privately tutor a student for a fee and then be a part of their admissions committee).
  + Other minor changes made to clarify “students” rather than “graduate students”.
  + Provides clarity that faculty can have contract addendums that permits/allows external grant/research work. This document clarifies that external work must not happen here at AUA as part of a faculty member’s AUA contract.
  + Put to a vote - unanimous vote of approval
* Advising Committee with Chris Ray
  + Draft document is ready and will be shared before next meeting. Will seek feedback from Provost before sharing the document FS.
  + ACTION: need to share this document before the next FS meeting
* Discussion of campus safety
  + Another fight occurred yesterday in PAB.
  + What can we do as faculty? How do we confront the issue? How do we try to reduce this issue?
  + Is it a student culture issue that students feel that AUA is an extension of high school? That AUA needs to set the tone and standards and that fighting isn’t a part of the collective culture.
  + AUA has a Student Code of Conduct. Need to build the culture and enforcement of the policy.
  + AUA administration has had conversations with students to develop the structure for these issues.
  + Create more opportunities to discuss this issue - perhaps at Brown Bag sessions and the annual faculty retreat. Also needs discussion among students regarding the Code of Ethics and how it applies to them.
  + Consistency of enforcement is key.
* Meeting ends at 10:27

Minutes taken by Kevin Adkin.