Faculty Senate Meeting

February 27, 2018

Quorum called at 16:31 pm

**Present:**

* Gayane Barseghyan
* Michael Andrews Bashan
* Norayr Ben-Ohanian
* David Davidian
* Gagik Gabrielyan
* Christian Garbis
* Aram Keryan
* Irshat Madyarov
* Agassy Manoukian
* Nshan Matevosyan
* Jenny Paturyan
* Fanis Varvoglis
* Arto Vaun

**Excused**

* Varduhi Petrosyan

**Absent**

* Hrant Davtyan

**Guests**

* William Bairamian
* Arshak Balayan
* Ripa Jangiryan
* Mary Boghosian
* Viken Berberian
* Suzanne Daghlian
* Alex Gubbins
* Mimi Zarookian

**Agenda:**

* Approval of the current agenda
* Approval of the January 29 meeting minutes
* Approval of the February 5 meeting minutes
* Operations and Facilities Committee (discussion with William)
* Faculty Affairs Committee: faculty evaluations
* Budget and Planning Committee: progress, charter finalizing issues
* General Assembly: date and topics
* Amendments to FS bylaws and Charter (time permitting)
* AOB

**Notes:**

* Agenda approved
* Minutes of two meetings approved
* Discussion with William and Ripa. William presents, redesign of the website, the process is just started. Put in touch with Operations and Facilities, Aghassi, Hourig. William: we meet every Tuesday 10:00 to discuss the website, if someone from the FS is willing to participate. We can also change the time to accommodate an interested person. Ripa shows the new template. William: we would like to launch by June. The feeling is that June is too early. Can FS help communicate to the admin that rushing things is not the best of ideas?
* Faculty evaluations. Arto presents. Evaluations are going to start happening this year. Faculty Affairs Committee picked up the work from the work group that worked last year. The document now shown to FS has some tweaks to the current policy. No voting yet, this will go to Shari’s office. Besides another more comprehensive document (a different evaluation procedure which has more focus on faculty professional development) is being developed. What about people who teach in more than one program. Co-evaluation? What if the faculty teach equally in two programs? Let them choose where to be evaluated?
* Budget Committee. The retention & recruitment report, what to prioritise? Irshat: maybe the Budget and the Academic Affairs Committees should meet. The Budget Committee Charge has been changed, the Committee is fine with the proposed changes. Vote: 13 in favour. Arto: any plans to meet with Gevorg? First the two committees meet and decide what to discuss with Gevorg, set priorities.
* General assembly: after the spring break: March 14. Of 31 responses to the poll, 28 ticked “evaluations”. Other topics suggested by faculty:
  + Grade inflation,
  + Research opportunities and conference attendance for adjuncts
  + Salary increase to reflect inflation
  + Interdisciplinary interactions between colleges, departments, programs
  + Traffic situation at AUA
  + Student evaluation format and procedure
* Discussion of the suggested “other” topics. Viken: grade inflation is connected to the evaluations being part of faculty evaluations. The new faculty evaluation policy should de-emphasise student evaluations to help guard against grade inflation. Michael: what is the purpose of the General Assembly? Have a conversation, shape policy, build momentum? Facilities. Parking. We need to come prepared, not just criticise Shahan, but be able to propose solution and offer help. Suzanne: it’s not parking, it’s safety!
* Gagik: what happened to the coaches on our floor? Operations and Facilities to look into it
* Bylaws. Nshan presents. Quarters to semesters. Get stricter on attendance. More clarity on notices before meetings. Changed Department to the Academic Program. Vote: 11 in favor. Circulate this for the confirmation.

Meeting ended at 18:07

Minutes taken by Jenny Paturyan