Faculty Senate Meeting

May 17, 2019

Quorum called at 17:05

**Present:**

1. Vardan Baghdasaryan
2. Norayr Ben Ohanian
3. David Davidian
4. Gagik Gabrielyan
5. Vahe Khachadourian
6. Amalya Kostanyan
7. Irshat Madyarov
8. Agassy Manoukian
9. Nshan Matevosyan
10. Jenny Paturyan
11. Sergey Tantushyan
12. Fanis Varvoglis
13. Arto Vaun

**Excused**

1. Arshak Balayan
2. Christian Garbis
3. Gayane Barseghyan

**Absent**

1. Vahram Ghushchyan
2. Satenik Mnatsakanyan
3. Arman Arakelyan (resigned from FS)
4. Habet Madoyan (resigned from FS)

**Guests**

* Cassandra Melton
* Suzanne Daghlian
* Lusyann Kerry
* Karena Avedissian
* Vaagn Gouchtchian
* Alex Gubbins
* Michael Kouchakdjian
* Hourig Attarian
* Arur Khalatyan
* Don Fuller

**Agenda**

* Approval of minutes of the previous meeting
* Housing benefit/Barsam Suites question
* Letter of thanks/congratulations to the Board, & welcome letter to Dr Karin Markides
* Faculty vision 'white paper' update
* Brief introduction of the newly formed faculty labor union (by their executive committee)
* Very brief: Minor change suggestion to tuition reimbursement policy;
* English Language Proficiency Test Waiver Policy
* Brief year-in-review & summer plans in preparation for August/September meeting before new elections
* AOB

**Notes**

* Minutes of the previous meeting approved
* Housing benefits/Barsam Suits situation. The issue was brought to the Faculty Affairs committee.
  + Lusyann presents. Faculty got notified that they are supposed to move out of the Barsam Suits. SHort time: 6 weeks to find a new place. No explanation was provided. Contracts mention housing benefits.
  + Irshat: we talked at the committee level. We agree it’s unprofessional, we bring it to the Senate now. Actions?
  + Fanis: it would be good to push the deadline to October. 4 faculty are affected.
  + Irshat: we need a meeting. Faculty Affairs + the affected faculty.
    - Ask for a deadline extension
    - Ask for justifications
    - If faculty has to move, they have to get comparable compensation
* Letter to the Board. Arto shows the draft. No objections. It would be good to also draft a welcome letter to the new President. We will deal with that in June
* White paper: working on it as a follow-up after the Faculty General Assembly. The link has been shared. Add your points/ideas during the next 2 weeks.
* Labor Union. Vaagn presents. The union is formed to make things better at AUA and in Armenia. Q&A
* Tuition remission policy. Nshan explains. Point raised by Agassy earlier. When an employee takes a leave or sabbatical, maternity leave, that should not be interpreted as an interruption in employment. The employee should qualify for benefits. Sergey: it’s even problematic when you move from full-time to part-time and then back to full-time. They start counting as if the part-time job was an interruption. Lusyann: 5 years? That’s too much. Recommend that benefit should apply right away. Finalise over summer, give the suggestion to the new President. [Addendum: the document was circulated for e-vote on July 24-26, approved]
* English Language Proficiency Test Waiver Policy: **unanimous vote in favor**.
* AOB: Committees
  + Ethics and Grievances: our policies are not perfect. Nshan: yes, I worked on it too, we can finalise the revisions together

Meeting ended 18:15

Minutes taken by Jenny Paturyan

Minutes approved via e-vote (June 3-10, 2019)