**Faculty Senate Meeting**

**September 28, 2020**

Present members: Don Fuller, Theofanis Varvoglis, Hourig Attarian, Harutyun Alpetyan, Sergey Tantushyan, Vahram Ghushchyan, Lori Fredricks, Agassy Manoukian, Nshan Matevosyan, Norayr Ben Ohanian

Present non-members: Alen Amirkhanian

**Agenda:**

**Topics in the agenda:**

1. The discussion of the representation of the GENED faculty in the Senate.

2.  The expectations of the Senate regarding the new Provost position.  We have invited Alen Amirkhanian as the committee chair to join the meeting.

We have a quorum with 9 out of 17 members present. Agenda approved unanimously.

Alen: Presented the role and synthesis of the Provost Committee and the importance of all stakeholders’ participation and the role of the selection firm. He mentioned the first phase as scoping, second phase identifying candidates and in the third phase the committee will recommend the candidates for campus visits. Described the role of the provost as it currently has at AUA.

Theofanis: The role of the provost should be a leader and not an administrator and therefore needs support administrative support.

Don: 1. To work hard 2. To substitute the President when needed. 3. Work closely with Faculty. 4. Prepare for the unexpected.

Hourig: Brought up the issue of faculty attendance at meetings for the provost and how to engage more faculty in this important process. Short list should be at least 3 to 5 candidates. The provost responsibilities are too many and affect the performance, need to be reduced and get support by establishing an assistant provost position. Need a person with leadership qualities and not micromanaging.

Alen: The lack of representation of admin staff was raised and the hope that faculty will take a leadership position in the committee. Faculty needs to understand that it must voice its thoughts and concerns.

Hourig: Faculty is not taken into account when decisions are made and therefore ends up not participating.

Vahram: Agreed with what was said. The need to have someone who will stay and stand in defense of quality education. Being professional is not enough should be able to take a leadership role.

Alen: Leadership needs time availability. Does it need to be someone who came out fo the American education system

Nshan: Not necessary but preferable.

Vahram: Not required American education. Preferred but not necessary. Past experience more important.

Hourig: As long as it has western type education it is ok.

Lori: The candidate should have knowledge of the region.

Alen: Some provosts, like Randal, adapt.

Vahram: The fewer limitations the better the chances to find the right person.

Alen: It should someone that will thrive on ambiguity.

Hautyun: Are then any other products that will come out of all these meetings?

Alen: getting the faculty more involved and bridging the staff and faculty is necessary and became evident from these meetings.

Theofanis: Discussion about proposal adding a member to the Senate representing GENED.

Nshan: Suggested the wording.

Vahram: Brought up the issue of accreditation impact of such a change.

Hourig: Our reality is that we have a big GENED

Vahram: The quorum issue maybe more difficult with a larger number of members.

Theofanis: We are talking about one person.

Hourig: Is the change is going to be effectively immediately.

Nshan: Yes.

Hourig: Some GENED courses are not in any program. The By-Laws say that members should be on campus for the whole year. This may be an issue due to the pandemic.

Theofanis: This needs to be discussed in a future date.

The wording was discussed and the members concluded that the proposed additional text works best and should be kept.

Hourig: The Senate should share a communication and give support opportunity to the faculty.

Nshan: The change to the By-Laws must be voted by the quorum and then circulated to the members and get a positive vote by two thirds, which means 12 members.

Seven members voted in favor of the amendment and two abstained.