

Faculty Senate
February 28, 2013
3:00pm-5:00pm

Present: Hawley Almstedt, Laurel Burks, Sean D'Evelyn, Elizabeth Drummond, Richard Fox, Paul Harris, George Hess, Karen Huchting, Diane Meyer, Katherine Noon, Patricia Oliver, Judy Park, John Parrish, Jennifer Pate, Ralph Quinones, Robert Rovetti, Gregory Ruzzin, Marta Sanchez, Sue Scheibler, Thomas White and Amy Woodson-Boulton.

Excused: Michele Hammers, Omar Es-Said, Mladen Milicevic, Tim Shanahan and Carl Urbinati.

Moment of Silence

Motion 1: Move to approve the January 31, 2012 minutes
14 for, 0 against, 3 abstentions

Update from Executive Committee

- The Faculty BBQ is set for Friday May 3rd after the Faculty Senate elections meeting. Clinical Faculty will be invited this year and will have access to child care.
- There will be 10 open seats for the Spring 2013 General Election. Katerina Zacharia will return to replace Paul Harris with term ending 2014. Nominations and voting will occur in late March through early April and the new senators will be announced at the April 18, 2013 Faculty Senate meeting.

Committee on Committees

- The Committee on Committees is ready to send out the survey for 2013-2014 committee sign up preferences. This year will follow last year's process targeting the committee openings in colleges and schools. The committee on committees will contact chairs to relay seat openings and will also use the opportunity to incorporate elements of the committee audit to collect reports and Bylaws. This process will also help identify any committees not listed in the directory. The Committee on Committees will deliberate the week of April 1-5 and send their recommendations to the Senate executive by April 5 who will deliberate and get the recommendations to the Provost by April 15th. The committee directory will be finalized and posted by May 15, 2013. We now have a very clear and inclusive committee selection process that is far beyond the previous one.

Governance Committee

- The Governance Committee is continuing to work on the Faculty Senate Bylaws and Constitution revision. The AAUP document on faculty governance and contingent faculty was recently sent out to faculty senators providing a new report on governance structures. LMU is in line with national trends for hiring of clinical faculty and this topic will be looked at by the Special Committee on Clinical Faculty.

Discussion

- The Faculty Senate could recommend that clinical faculty hiring processes could be standardized across the university.
- BCLA currently has a committee looking at the hiring of clinical faculty and this may ultimately inform hiring policies in that college.
- The Special Committee on Clinical Faculty is addressing the role of faculty in deciding the hiring process, including the process initiated over the summer. The expectation is that we will have their report and recommendation at the March 14th meeting.

Report of the Faculty Senate Committee on Variable Unit

Guest: Anthony Perron, chair of the Academic Planning and Review Committee (APRC)

- The Faculty Senate Special Committee on Variable Unit Courses and the Core Curriculum was constituted in accordance with the Faculty Senate Resolution Regarding 4-Unit Courses, passed in September 2012. To provide some context, the committee was formed to assess the potential impact if substantial parts of the core moved to 4-units. The committee looked at this question based on statements of intent received in the Fall. The Special Committee was chaired by Anthony Perron, chair of the Academic Planning and Review Committee (APRC), and Stella Oh, chair of the University Core Curriculum Committee (UCCC). The committee also included representation from Faculty Senators Richard Fox, Mladen Milicevic, Katharine Noon, Carl Urbinati, and Thomas White.
- In December, the Seaver College of Science and Engineering submitted a proposal that requested accommodations to Core Curriculum requirements for science and engineering majors should a large number of departments offering Core courses transition their courses to 4-units. The proposal was approved by the Provost based on the recommendation from the UCCC. The Special Committee subsequently agreed that the approval of the Seaver proposal had in effect preempted how to deal with four unit courses in the core. The committee instead focused on how to best handle future requests for accommodations to the core.

- The committee found that the proposed move to 4-unit courses would have a heavy impact on the size of the Core as taken by many students and agreed that departments and programs, with the support of their colleges and schools, will be justified in seeking accommodation for the impact this change may have on their students. The committee recommends that the Faculty Senate oversee the creation of a fair process by which schools, colleges, departments, and programs may request such accommodations, and proposed a set of principles to anchor this process.
- The UCCC should be the final committee to address changes to the core and should develop clear criteria for how the committee will evaluate petitions for accommodation. In the interests of fairness and consistency, these criteria should be based on the decision-making process followed in recommending the SCSE proposal. Any requests for accommodation should come from colleges and schools, not from individual departments and programs. Departments, programs and schools/colleges should have the pedagogical autonomy to determine whether their courses are 3 units or 4 units.

Motion 2: Move to accept and endorse the report of the Faculty Senate Special Committee on Variable Unit Courses and the Core Curriculum.

Discussion

- The Seaver proposal went first to the Provost who then sent it to the UCCC. I believe in the future proposals should be sent to the UCCC first.
- The issue of double counting would make the total impact different between students.
- What is the process by which the decision will be made on the move to 4-units? Who will make this decision?
-It is not clear at this point. The special committee recommended that departments/programs should have the pedagogical autonomy on whether to move to 3 units or 4units. The APRC will not weigh in on the move unless the total impact on programs is the issue.
- The Faculty Senate should create a fair process but needs to be clear and ensure all voices are included in the conversation.
- The report points to the next step and documents the real issues. The communication issue is critical and it feels like we need additional collaboration between the Faculty Senate, APRC, and UCCC.

- APRC has been asked to weigh in at various points in the Core revision process. APRC's role should be limited and the UCCC should primarily run the show. The APRC will look at the impact on programs.
- I have a concern about shared governance and that the UCCC is a non-elected faculty committee. The Faculty Senate should be strengthening and maintaining good governance structures.
- The UCCC Bylaws need to be rethought and the revised By-laws will be coming to the Faculty Senate for approval.
- I suggest we amend the motion on the floor to accept the report excluding the two sentences in bullet point two. These sentences are quoting the UCCC Bylaws that are about to become obsolete.

Motion 3: Move to amend the motion on the floor to accept and endorse the report of the Faculty Senate Special Committee on Variable Unit Courses and the Core Curriculum.

17 for 0, against, 2 abstentions

Motion 4: Move to accept and endorse the report of the Faculty Senate Special Committee on Variable Unit Courses and the Core Curriculum, excluding the first two sentences of the second bullet point which states "The UCCC as the regularly constituted university committee authorized to advise the Provost in all matters concerning the core curriculum, should be the faculty body responsible for making final recommendations to the Provost on accommodations to the Core. The UCCC should, however, consult with the APRC in the process."

17 for 0, against, 2 abstentions

- The executive will consult with the governance committee chair on the Faculty Senate's role in creating a process.
- A thank you to the committee especially Tony Perron for his work on this issue.

New Business

- There have been some recent issues with cheating and there was a question about "Turn it in" software. There was ethical issue related to this topic in the past, but it will be looked into further.

Adjourned at 4:30pm

Submitted by: Jennifer Pate

Prepared by: Robert Houghtaling