Academic Assembly
March 11, 2019
2:05 – 3:35pm, STCN 130

MINUTES

Present: Felipe Anaya, Sarah Bee, Pat Buchsel, Terri Clark, Mark Cohan, Marc Cohen, Miles Coleman, Clara Cordova, Charlotte Garden, Ben Howe, Naomi Hume, Nalini Iyer, Kate Koppelman, Kathleen La Voy, Frank Shih, Gregory Silverman, Mo Sin, AJ Stewart, Colette Taylor, Mark Taylor, Kirsten Thompson

Minutes taken by Rosa Hughes

I. Review of 2-25-19 Minutes
    A. 14 approve, 0 oppose, 1 abstain
II. AcA President Update
    A. Committee Structure
        1. Ongoing meetings to discuss Academic Affairs meetings, including reporting structures to/from AcA
        2. Proposal for a Committee on Committees to manage committee structure, appointments, members, terms, charges
        3. Also discussing the formation of a Committee on Faculty Welfare: childcare, benefits, cost of living
        4. Formal proposal will come to AcA for review soon
    B. Support Hire
        1. Three strong candidates, conducting reference checks now
        2. Overlap with Rosa during spring quarter with the goal to fully transition in the new academic year
    C. NWCCU Academy for Retention
        1. Might be a fairly significant time commitment from the 5-7 faculty members, may want to think about compensation
        2. Ask Bob Duniway to clarify time commitment
        3. Would like whoever attends to report back to AcA
III. AcA Bylaws Revision Subcommittee Update
    A. Timeline
        1. After meeting with Provost, bring draft to AcA for in-depth discussion in first half of April, take back to committee for revision
        2. Goal for final draft to come back to AcA early May, for operation adoption next academic year
    B. Highlights
        1. Extending the term of members to four years, only one quarter would turnover each year
        2. Third Vice President for Committee on Committees
        3. Possible President-elect to create opportunity for continuity and transition
        4. Expanding term of officers to three years
        5. Calculation for proportional representation including two at large members and adjustment of NTT representation
    C. Discussion

1. Disagreement on whether to bring draft to Provost or AcA first, pros and cons to each approach
2. Many discussions in the subcommittee are about the authority of AcA, which would affect the order of approvals
3. May be proposals that are non-starters in AcA that would not make sense to take to Provost
4. Draft will come to AcA prior to review by Provost
5. Elections take place in the colleges in spring, so we need to have membership terms set before then
6. Nominations and votes for part time NTT roles have been historically low – NTT faculty committee will handle these issues in the future

IV. Climate Positive Campus (*Phil Thompson*)
  A. President's Committee on Sustainability
    1. Climate Positive Campus is the new proposal after a year of work
    2. Campus has decided to divest from fossil fuel investments over a multi-year period, this proposal is the next step
    3. 80% of SU emissions are related to travel, especially air travel
    4. Proposal includes carbon neutral offset of 110%
      a. SU would be the first university in the world to be climate positive
      b. Cost is $200,000 or 0.1% of the annual budget
      c. Potential opportunity for marketing, making sustainability part of our brand
  B. Discussion
    1. Need to acknowledge that it's cheaper to go carbon neutral because of our regional access to hydro power – use this to pressure competitors regionally
    2. Unanimous support from SGSU
    3. Why don't we have car chargers on campus? Larger question of what we are doing to reduce emissions
    4. Air travel associated with Athletics and Education Abroad – these are not necessarily things we want to cut
    5. Priority to reduce existing emissions comprehensively
    6. Green-washing is when organizations or individuals promote sustainability for marketing without making real changes
    7. Would like to see opportunities for students (e.g., projects, research, employment) as part of this plan – could add student inclusive language
    8. On-campus food may not be included in part of greenhouse gas emissions calculation – vegetarianism could be included in the future
  C. Motion to adopt proposal
    1. Vote at next meeting on April 1

V. Non-Tenure Track (NTT) Steering Committee Update (*Brenda Bourns, Stacey Jones*)
  A. Overview
    1. Recently formed NTT representation committee, working since last year as an ad hoc group considering issues mostly specific to NTT faculty
    2. Group of nine faculty who are from across different schools and colleges, including some part time NTT
    3. Partnership with Provost's office has led to two pilot initiatives: conference and professional development funds for all NTT, and parking/ORCA reimbursement for part time NTT
    4. Additional proposals made to Provost

     a. Replace existing minimum floor to $6,000 per 5 credit course
     b. Replace existing minimum salary with a floor of $55,000 per year
     c. Work on a different track for NTT faculty included in handbook with clear growth path
     d. Stipend for part time member on committee was approved
    5. Motion for NTT Faculty Committee to become a reporting committee to AcA
   B. Discussion
    1. Groups on campus have been looking at many of these issues specifically, but no duplication of major work
    2. Clinical Professorship committee is on hold right now, but their leadership met with this NTT group
    3. Vision that this group will be an official, ongoing university committee
    4. Have a member of AcA always be on NTT committee
    5. Need to figure out how communication will occur between university level committee and what is happening at the college level
     a. Vast differences between policies and culture in how NTT are treated in their colleges
     b. Ratio of NTT to TT varies widely between colleges, also comparison of bodies or credit hours/ work units
     c. If NTT are not being treated well, may fear retaliation, which is an academic freedom issue

VI. New Program Proposal – MSCS Specialization in Data Science (*Eric Larson, Mike Quinn*)
   A. Overview
    1. PRC memo recommends accepting the proposal after the official addendum was submitted and discussed
    2. University released Applied Data Science Task Force report, this proposal was developed prior to the issue of that report so does not include many of the recommendations
    3. Addendum document to the proposal was submitted upon PRC request, addressing the lack of congruence with the task force report
   B. Discussion
    1. Proposal was developed in partnership with Amazon, especially looking at software developers that need this specialization for work
    2. Enrollment
     a. Projections were for completely new students
     b. Existing MSCS has approximately 100 students and growing
     c. Enrollment was based on discussions with current chair and instructor specializing in data science
    3. Work units generated in Math teaching across four graduate programs
     a. College needs to address the workload issues in the department
     b. Plan to add instructor lines until enrollment growth justifies the ask for a tenure track line
    4. Master in Data Science (separate program) is planning to launch in Fall 2021, good chance that by the time that is created, there will be overlap in courses
    5. MSCS Data Science Specialization (this program proposal) looks specifically at underlying computer problems associated with big data issues, processing and developing systems, scalability, analysis of data
   C. Motion to approve the program proposal, vote on April 1
VII. Snow Days and Evacuation Drill Discussion

      A. Frustration with when closure was announced based upon block schedule and exams
      B. David Green (CETL) has put together a good resource for course cancellations
      C. AcA will formulate a set of specific questions in order to get answers

VIII. Motion for Executive Session
      A. 15 approve, 0 oppose, 1 abstain