

Academic Senate Council Meeting, June 19, 2012

Minutes

Attendees: Larry Suva, Lee Ann MacMillan-Crow, Tom Kelly, Dana Gaddy, Steve Post, Paul Gottschall, Todd Nick, Adam Brown, Julia Goodwin, Rebecca Patterson, Elizabeth Bard, Feifei Wei, Michael Soulsby

Apologies: Jerry Ware, Bill Culp, Paul Wendel

Agenda:

1. The Chair, Larry Suva, called the meeting to order. All faculty in attendance introduced themselves.
2. Minutes from last meeting were approved.
3. Action items from the last meeting were discussed.
 - A. Elections have been held in the colleges and one of the new CPH representatives, (Feifei Wei) was introduced. Dr. Suva will send emails to Deans of all colleges to identify the new representatives from all colleges. **(ACTION ITEM)**
 - B. The email sent by Dr. Suva with a reminder and link to the exit survey has generated several responses.
 - C. The continuing issues with UAMS email/IT was discussed. Dr. Suva had emailed David Miller inviting him to the council meeting but he has not responded. The committee recommended sending another request to David Miller to attend our next council meeting. **(ACTION ITEM)**
 - D. The issue related to oversight and accessibility of UAMS core facilities was discussed. Specific nursing faculty indicated that they had access to core usage, merely because a mentor had 'connections'. This also raised the issue for need of better collaboration/communication across colleges on campus, something we hope the faculty senate can improve.
4. Lengthy discussion regarding the existing Senate committees revealed that several of the committees need reinvigoration (research and faculty affairs).
 - A. It was noted that the communications committee has done very well. They will work on changing the logo for Academic Senate.
 - B. Dr. Gottschall (chair of Faculty Affairs) informed the committee that he would like to step down from the chair position; Dr. Barger was suggested as a new chair.
 - C. Dr. Post discussed many of the previous concerns within the Research Committee, many of which were deemed COM specific or budgetary.
 - D. Dr. Post suggested the possibility of the clinical affairs committee and the faculty affairs committee becoming subcommittees of an Academic Affairs Committee. In addition, he suggested that another sub-committee be formed that focuses on academic/educational issues.
5. There was discussion regarding the purpose of the campus research committee and concern about an apparent 'conflict of interest' of Dr. Cornett serving dual roles as both Vice Chancellor for Research and as Executive Associate Dean of COM.
 - A. **From the UAMS website:**
*As Vice Chancellor for Research, Dr. Cornett, is responsible for supporting and enhancing research across all colleges including the College of Medicine, College of Pharmacy, College of Nursing, College of Public Health and College of Health Related Professions. In broad terms, the Vice Chancellor for Research provides leadership in formulating and carrying out strategies to expand campus-wide research and collaborative activity. The **UAMS Research Committee (URC)** serves as a research advisory body to the*

Vice Chancellor for Research, Larry Cornett, Ph.D. The Committee represents the interests of all UAMS research faculty and each UAMS College has 2 members sitting on the committee. Major activities of the URC include review/updating of UAMS research policies and processes, along with the dissemination of important federal mandates regarding research funding, collaboration, and conduct to UAMS research faculty.

- B. Larry Cornett, Ph.D., **Executive Associate Dean of Research**, heads up the COM Research Office and works to broaden research outreach and funding horizons while representing faculty members at the highest levels.
 - C. It was decided to invite Dr. Cornett to the next council meeting (July 12th) to help clarify this issue. Dr. Suva will send the email. **(ACTION ITEM)**
6. There was discussion about recent faculty appointment letters and changes in contracts. The nursing faculty raised the issue of problems with faculty and administration within CON with regard to faculty appointment letters and alterations in contracts. Dr. MacMillan-Crow brought up the need for all COM faculty to receive signed appointment letters-which stopped ~ 3 years ago within COM. This issue needs to be brought up with the Dean of the COM since it is clear from the Board of Trustees Policy that states:
- “For purposes of this policy, the following definitions shall apply:
Appointment - An appointment is employment by written contract ("Notice of Appointment") by the Board of Trustees of an individual in a given capacity for a specified time period at a stated salary. An appointment is valid only when the appointment form is approved and signed by the President of the University or the President's designee in accordance with authority delegated by the Board of Trustees, and the Notice of Appointment is signed by the individual being appointed and returned to the specified University official.”*
7. Elizabeth Bard from the Academic Affairs office presented details for the Academic Senate budget for FY-13 that will be in effect July 2012. The total budget was indicated to be \$4890; however, the prior minutes stated the FY-13 budget was reduced to \$3890. This item requires clarification from the Academic Affairs Office. It was also decided that the budget should be presented/disclosed at the full faculty meetings. **(ACTION ITEM)**
8. Possible dates for the next full senate meeting were discussed-early September was voted upon. **(ACTION ITEM)**

Meeting was adjourned.

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1. Identification of new college representatives.
- 2. Second request to David Miller to attend council meeting.
- 3. Invitation to Dr. Cornett to attend council meeting.
- 4. Clarification on FY13 budget.
- 5. Identify date and time for full senate meeting in September.