

**Academic Senate Council Meeting Agenda & Minutes
July 28, 2021**

Academic Senate Officers Attendance

Names	Present	Absent
Edgar Meyer	x	
Priya Mediratta	x	
Tiffany Huitt		Excused
Summer Khairi	x	
Ashley McNatt		Excused
Elizabeth Riley		x
David Ussery		x
Emily Sparkman	x	
Dana Moser	x	
Layla Simmons	x	
Gunnar Boysen	x	
Lin-Xi Li	x	
James Selig	x	
Richard Turnage		x
Corey Nagel		x
Sara Jones		Excused
Darin Jones	x	
Bradley Martin	x	

Other Faculty Present: Abdallah Hayar, Phil Palade, Amber Teigen, Anthony Goudie, Eric Rosenbaum, Ginell Post, Jen Gan, Julie Clark, LeeAnn MacMillan-Crow, Wendy Ward,

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Edgar Meyer at 2:02pm.

II. Report of Minutes – Minutes were approved by board. Dr. Hayar will upload pdf minutes onto website.

III. Updates and New Business (Meyer)

A. Meetings with the Provost

i. We did not meet with the Provost this month.

- ii. Since we only planned to share updates concerning the Constitution with her this month, we have shared those via email, and we will share those and additional updates concerning the revisions of the Constitution during this meeting.
 - iii. Fresh and Reddie kick-off is scheduled to be on August 12, 2021. We will be receiving promotional material from Tonya Johnson, executive director of nutrition and hospitality services. We will help disseminate the promotional materials to help administration. I intend to include a brief statement about this project in the inaugural quarterly newsletter. The newsletter should be launched in August.
 - iv. There is availability of space that will be used for Muslim prayer groups and as a multipurpose wellness space. Dr. Kat Neill found a space that was large enough to accommodate about 20 people with prayer rugs, and potentially more can fit if everybody is in a seated position. Space should be ready in the first week of August. A blurb about the quick response of administration in conjunction with the Academic Senate will be added to the quarterly newsletter as a testament to the address of diverse needs.
 - v. I reached out to Dr. Brian Gittens and the team of individuals that is responsible for planning and organizing the S.E.E.D. Program. I am meeting with them to discuss potential projects or ideas of how S.E.E.D. alumni could volunteer to conduct projects to target diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. These projects would help with the continuity of these groups and also further the mission and vision of the Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion on campus.
- B. President-Elect Election results
- i. Brad Martin is the new President-Elect.
- C. Academic Senate-sponsored seminar series updates
- i. We have established dates for the Academic Senate-sponsored seminar series. The four dates are established for November 17, 2021; January 12, 2022; February 9, 2022; and April 13, 2022. What we have decided to do is for the executive council members to help organize the first one which is on November 17, 2021. We are still trying to finalize topic. The additional three seminar dates will be hosted by the Academic Senate committees: Research, Communications, and Faculty Affairs. The topics should be relevant to their committee work, but also the mission of the Academic Senate. Once the topics are finalized, those topics will be shared with Fatera Herd so those topics can be communicated and advertised through the Faculty Center.
- D. Quarterly newsletter draft
- i. I have received information from the three committee chairs, which will also go into the newsletter.
 - ii. I will share a draft, and the Academic Senate can help participate in the editing.
 - iii. Any ideas – please share with Edgar at ermeyer@uams.edu by August 6, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. CDT.
- E. Any new business?
No new business to discuss

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Research Committee (Gan)
- i. No major updates.

- ii. Discussed faculty survey, and the committees were able to send in their comments.
- B. Faculty Affairs Committee (Aykin-Burns)
 - i. After working on the survey, next thing will be working on the faculty Handbook – Jennifer Gan
- C. Communications Committee (Hayar)
 - i. Hayar wrote an article about the vaccine. Suggested it should be a part of the newsletter.
 - ii. Need suggestions on how to bring awareness to get vaccinated.
 - iii. Dr. Hayar suggested to have an ad on the billboard to get vaccinated.
 - iv. Dr. Hayar needs to meet with Edgar to finalize the newsletter.
 - v. Any creative idea to encourage people to get the vaccine, please reach out to Dr. Hayar.
 - vi. Talked about examples about people who do not get vaccinated. Benefits are approved at the University of Arkansas System level and not at the UAMS level.
 - vii. Idea by Edgar- compiling a list of resources for individuals on why to get the vaccine.
- D. Subcommittee for Constitutional Review (Martin)
 - i. Ad-Hoc Committee on Constitutional Revision
 - 1. Formed in June 2020
 - 2. Met with Provost Office to Outline Objectives of Committee and Seek Initial Input
 - 3. Held Series of Meetings
 - a. Linear approach
 - b. Nearly all decisions were consensus driven
 - 4. Meet with House of Delegates Leadership in June 2021 and outlined our revisions and presented them a draft of revisions
 - ii. Replacing the Academic Senate with the Academic Senate Council
 - 1. What was called the Academic Senate Council is now proposed to be the Academic Senate
 - a. No longer will each faculty member be a member of the Academic Senate
 - b. Academic Senate members will be elected
 - i. More on composition later
 - ii. Taking the model like the US senate and other universities senate
 - iii. Want more people to attend
 - c. Shift towards an elected representative governance structure
 - i. Senate will be able to take action without having to go through the entire faculty body.
 - 2. Rationale
 - a. More in line with other University Governance structures
 - b. An overwhelming proportion of governance occurred at the academic senate council meetings and not at the Academic Senate
 - c. Attendance at the Academic Senate meetings has been modest.
 - 3. Slightly Broadened the composition of the “Academic Senate”
 - a. Colleges with more than a 100 full time employees will have three elected representatives

- b. Will have three instead of two campus wide elected representatives
 4. "Academic Senate" shall call a campus wide meeting at least once per year to report on activities and solicit concerns.
 - iii. Changes in Function
 1. Proposed that the Academic Senate is no longer in the business of governing:
 - a. Admission requirements
 - b. Curriculum
 - c. Degree requirements
 - d. Calendar
 - e. Academic Honors
 - iv. Proposed Functions of the "Academic Senate"
 1. Make recommendations to the Provost on any matter of the faculty affairs or campus-wide concern, including such matters as research facilitation, education, faculty appointment, promotion, tenure, dismissal, and non-reappointment as well as safety, security, fringe benefits, work schedules, work conditions, job evaluations, grievances and appeals.
 2. In keeping with the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Trustees, the Academic Senate Council shall, under the Board of Trustees, be the legislative body responsible for developing with the authority to develop or approve board educational academic policies and programs on the campus at UAMS.
 - v. Rationale for the Proposed Changes in Function of the "Academic Senate"
 1. UAMS academic programs operate autonomously and have their own governance structure for the curriculum.
 2. Academic Senate has not acted on curricular matters for quite some time.
 3. Desire to position the Academic Senate to work closely with University administration on faculty affairs
 - vi. Notable Proposed Changes
 1. Expanded Senate Composition
 - a. Will now have a 3 faculty elected from the faculty at large instead of 2
 - b. Will now have 3 faculty elected from Colleges that have more than 100 faculty members instead of 2.
 2. Senate attendance
 - a. Persons missing more than 3 meetings could be voted off
 3. Reformulated the Nomination committee into the Membership and Elections Committee.
 - a. Prepares slate of nominees and responsible for preparing and counting ballots
 4. Eliminated the Agenda Standing Committee
 5. Made the Faculty Affairs Committee a Standing Committee
 - a. The Faculty Affairs Committee is concerned with matters that pertain primarily to the responsibilities, rights, privileges, opportunities, and welfare of the faculty collectively and as individuals. Topics in its area of responsibility include tenure, procedures for academic promotions, academic

- responsibilities, sabbaticals, dismissals, and standard of appointment.
- b. Shall be chaired by an elected member of senate
- vii. More Modest Proposed Changes
 1. Changed reporting to Provost instead of President
 2. Did not restrict amendments to constitution to the Sept – May time frame
 3. Made changes to meetings and quorums to reflect the smaller representative nature of the revised “Academic Senate”
 4. Members of the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee shall have a voice but cannot vote
 5. Modernized language to reflect the web based era
- viii. Housekeeping and Proposed Amendments
 1. Article 5, section 3:
 - a. In addition, a copy of these minutes shall be made publicly available on the UAMS Academic Senate Website
 - i. Replaced....publicly available in the library
 - ii. Modernizing it
 2. Article 7, section 7:
 - a. Elected members of the Academic Senate era; the elected officers of the Academic Senate, the elected member of the Associated Student Government, two to three faculty elected by and from each college, and three faculty elected from the campus-wide appointments
 - i. Replaced Academic Senate Council with Academic Senate
 - ii. Fixed language
 3. **Motion:** Amendments on the screen (above). Motion: Gunnar Boysen, Second: James Selig, Unanimously approved by the Council.
- ix. Processing of Amending Constitution
 1. Needs to be part of Agenda at Two consecutive HOD Executive Committee and Academic Senate Council Meetings
 2. Required 2/3rd affirmative vote of full HOD Academic Senate
 3. Approval by the UA Board of Trustees
- x. Feedback Received
 1. “The senators will have the authority to decide for the faculty how they will represent the faculty, without necessarily consulting further with the faculty on any item.”
 2. Suggestions Received:
 - a. Allow colleges to elect two senators and for colleges with more than 200, elect one senator for every 200 faculty.
 - i. How was 200 derived? Trying to be like the US congress. Make representatives proportional to faculty (1500). Just an idea.
 - ii. Need to revise this plan and present it the Academic Senate. Vote on each issue one by one.
 - b. Restrict elected representatives to no more than 1 faculty elected from any one department
 - c. Include one additional elected member from Academic Affairs
 - d. Distribute agenda to all the faculty by posting on website

- e. A member should exclude himself/herself from the election and membership committee if he/she is planning to be nominated for the position
 - f. Require the faculty affairs committee to conduct a faculty survey every 2 years to monitor engagement and well-being of faculty.
3. Amendments need to be drafted and sent to Brad Martin.
 4. Monthly meeting of the Senate – no restriction on faculty attending but can't vote.

V. College Officer Reports

- A. Graduate School (Boysen, Li)
 - i. Nothing to report.
- B. College of Health Professions (Moser, Simmons)
 - i. Dr. Maddox gave resources on the vaccine to CHP. Layla will send information to Edgar.
- C. College of Medicine (Mendiratta, Turnage)
 - i. Nothing to report.
 - ii. Need to meet with the new Dean.
- D. College of Nursing (S. Jones, Nagle)
 - i. No representatives to report.
- E. College of Pharmacy (D. Jones, Martin)
 - i. Meeting scheduled to meet with Dean.
 - ii. Working hard on self-study.
- F. College of Public Health (Goudie, Selig)
 - i. Selig met with Associate Dean to discuss having COPH elect our college reps rather than being appointed. We are researching ways to effectively and efficiently move to electing representatives.
 - ii. New faculty incentive plan starting on July 1 on securing external funding.
- G. Academic Affairs (Blake)
 - i. No representatives.
- H. Associated Student Government (Norwood)
 - i. Nothing report.
 - ii. No meeting in the summer.

VI. Reminders and Announcements

- A. UA System BOT annual retreat, August 10-11, 2021, Winthrop Rockefeller Institute
- B. UA System BOT meeting, September 16-17, 2021, UA Fayetteville
- C. Ask@UAMS.edu

VII. Adjourn at 3:13pm.