

**UAMS Academic Senate Council Meeting  
Wednesday, April 28, 2021**

**Attendance:** Cherika Robertson, Williams Edward, Ashley McNatt, Edgar Meyer, Dana Moser, Andrew James, Lee Ann MacMillian-Crow, Wendy L Ward, Brad Martin, Jen Gan, Stephanie Gardner, Gunnar Boysen, Amber Teigen, Claire Tucker, Chris Arthur, Ginell Post, Eric Rosenbaum, Steve Post, Emily Sparkman, Elizabeth Riley, Brendan Frett, Priya Mendiratta, Corey Nagel, James Selig, Lindsay Blake

**Academic Senate Council Meeting Agenda**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Edgar Meyer.

**II. Report of Minutes**

Edgar Meyer entertained a motion for approval of the minutes from the March 31, 2021, Senate Meeting. First motion was made by Brad Martin; second motion was made by Andrew James. The minutes were approved by majority vote of the Academic Senate Council.

**III. Updates and New Business (Edgar Meyer)**

**A. Meetings with Provost**

**1. Discussion of Spring Full Faculty Meeting topic**

Edgar Meyer announced that discussions were held about the opportunity for a panel discussion featuring a panel of the college/school deans and their recommended strategies for promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion among their faculty and staff. The current plan is ask Dr. Brian Gittens, the Vice Chancellor of the UAMS Division for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to moderate the panel. Tiffany Huitt will be meeting with Dr. Gittens this Friday to confirm his role and then will be disseminating communication to the deans to request their participation.

**2. Faculty merit salary increases**

Edgar Meyer announced that Executive Council is awaiting a response on this topic, so information will be forthcoming soon.

**B. Council elections ongoing**

Edgar Meyer announced that voting for Academic Senate Council positions was still ongoing. Positions include voting for Secretary, two Members at-Large, and President-Elect.

Andrew James made the comment that Survey Monkey charges a fee when poll respondents exceed a certain number. The voting Survey Monkey poll link was distributed to College of Medicine by Dr. Erick Messias. Dr. James will be following up concerning the potential of using Academic Senate funds to cover the cost associated with such an account, if necessary.

**C. Senate budget spending update**

Edgar Meyer mentioned that Tiffany Huitt will be meeting with Faculty Affairs on May 4, 2021, to coordinate options for Academic Senate spending, especially as they relate to new faculty gift/welcome packs.

**D. Spring Full Senate Meeting**

Edgar Meyer reminded the Academic Senate once again of the date of the Full Faculty meeting: May 26, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. which will be held via Zoom. At the meeting the elected officers will be announced. College representatives were encouraged to send their reports to Dr. Huitt so that she can share them at the beginning of the Full Faculty meeting next month. Details concerning the following panel discussion were already mentioned.

#### IV. Committee Reports

- A. **Research Committee (Gan):** Jen Gan shared some updates regarding the Faculty survey. The Academic Senate Research Committee will review the previous survey and develop a few additional questions regarding research. She also shared slides regarding exploring potential gender bias in journal citations. Jen attended a journal club hosted by a former colleague at the University of California, Irvine, Dr. Fan-Gang Zeng. He is currently on the NIH diversity task force, and the article she mentioned was the topic of one of her discussions with Dr. Zeng. The authors ([Dworkin, et al., Nat Neurosci., 2020](#)) explored the prevalence of gender imbalances in neuroscience citations. Further articles suggested recommendations for action, including a citation diversity statement. Jen mentioned that she appreciates the Senate's thoughts on whether this is an appropriate topic for the academic senate and that she is happy to discuss further.

Gunnar Boysen commented that he did not think the lower number of female citations was due to a lack of citing simply on the basis of implicit bias. Gunnar mentioned that there might be a top-down effect due to the fact that Caucasian men have historically received more grant funding from NIH than women and other marginalized groups. Several Academic Senate Council member echoed their agreement with the fact that they did not think it was an issue of bias with citing specifically, including Steve Post, Brad Martin, and Corey Nagel.

Edgar Meyer invited input from female faculty on the Council. Lee Ann MacMillan-Crow, Elizabeth Riley, and Dana Moser shared similar sentiments in the fact they themselves do not consider the gender of the individuals they are citing when publishing.

James Selig commented that the discussion of the gender disparity in citations was certainly appropriate, and Edgar Meyer agreed. Jen Gan appreciated the feedback gathered from the discussion on the topic.

- B. **Faculty Affairs Committee (Huitt, Interim):** No update; no representative present
- C. **Communications Committee (Hayar):** No update; no representative present
- D. **Subcommittee for Constitutional Review (Martin):** Brad Martin mentioned the progress of the subcommittee in reviewing and revising the Academic Senate during the past three meetings. He mentioned the next meeting coming up to continue those revisions on May 10.

Gunnar Boysen commented on the revisions made to the number of representatives for colleges, especially those to the College of Medicine since they have more faculty.

Lindsey Blake brought up the concern with continued representation from Academic Affairs. Gunnar and Brad had questions about the Academic Affairs faculty and did not realize that they had no appointment in any particular college. Dr. Wendy Ward and Lindsay Blake mentioned

that that was the case. When Gunnar asked about the number of faculty within Academic Affairs, Dr. Ward mentioned that the number was close to 50. Edgar Meyer mentioned that Tiffany Huitt was the cheerleader in encouraging representation from Academic Affairs on the Academic Senate, leading to the appointment of Lindsay Blake for that role. Edgar Meyer also mentioned that considerations would be included in the Constitution revisions to ensure that Academic Affairs had a representative on the Academic Senate Council for the future.

#### **V. Reports from College Representatives**

- A. Graduate School: The Graduate School commencement and convocation will be held virtually on Thursday, May 13 at 4:30pm. Graduates will attend virtually and be hooded by a person of their choice.
- B. College of Health Professions: Cherika Robertson mentioned the election of a new College of Health Professions representative, Layla Simmons, with whom she will communicate regarding attendance at future meetings with the start of her role. Edgar Meyer confirmed that her role begins at the conclusion of the Full Faculty meeting on May 26.
- C. College of Medicine: Priya Mendiratta announced Dean Westfall's appointment of Dr. Richard Turnage as the new representative for the College of Medicine and encouraged his acceptance in this role.
- D. College of Nursing: Corey Nagel announced the newly elected representative for the College of Nursing, Sara Jones.
- E. College of Pharmacy: Brendan Frett and Brad Martin announced that a new representative for the College of Pharmacy will need to be elected. Edgar Meyer encouraged that election process to take place to ensure that the College of Pharmacy would be represented by the June 2021 meeting, the start of the new officers' roles.
- F. College of Public Health: No Updates
- G. Academic Affairs: No updates

#### **VI. Reminders and Announcements**

- A. Spring Full Senate Meeting on May 26, 2021
- B. UA System Board of Trustees meeting May 26-27, 2021
- C. [Ask@uams.edu](mailto:Ask@uams.edu)

#### **VII. Meeting Adjourned at 2:51 p.m.**