

NAU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2020

Action Items

1. Agenda accepted with amendments to make room for President Cheng's visit
2. Dec 2, 2019 minutes approved and available on website

Faculty Senate President's Report—Gioia Woods

- Arizona Faculties Council meeting in preparation for Academic Affairs and Regent's meeting (2/12-2/14, ASU). Forthcoming: updating metrics.
- FS elections this spring. Please consider running for an office on executive committee. Crucial to the health of faculty governance of the institution. Encourage new leadership.
- FS staff position reopened at \$20/hour. Hope to hire student worker soon. Workload has been onerous without staff, but thanks are due to help from the provost's office and among the FSEC.
- International Holocaust Remembrance Day—author David Treuer 7pm in Prochnow sponsored by the Martin Springer Institute.
- Travel audit: FSEC agreed to address the news with President Cheng in an open letter; asked for clarification of travel funds and potential misuse. That exchange is available on the FS website. The Senate has a vested, constitutionally guaranteed interest in consulting and advising on budgetary issues.
- No question that university presidents need to travel and we thank the president for her work establishing NAU's footprint abroad. However, there is lack of transparency regarding the source of funds and the way they are deployed. This is especially troubling in this era of austerity. Gioia thanked the president for joining us.
- Gioia called for an external audit of the NAU Foundation in order to restore confidence in the institution. Many have called for transparency in spending practices. The Foundation is not subject to state auditing because it is a 501c3.

NAU University President—Rita Cheng

- The audit demonstrated that NAU is fiscally healthy
- Glad for opportunity to address the circulating misinformation. The problem is one of documentation—the purpose of travel is not under scrutiny. Steps have been taken to resolve this issue: 146 people are now being trained as to proper procedures; the CFO will now handle the president's travel. Executive team undergoing training on proper documentation protocol.
- President's travel fund at the NAU Foundation is an unrestricted account. Adequate funds in that account. Traditionally used for outreach and celebrations of faculty/staff achievement.
- President made an additional donation to the foundation as a way to take responsibility; not a "pay-back." No request was made to return money.
- Invited Assoc VP for Global Initiatives Daniel Palm to explain the purpose for Russia trip. H began by noting how students historically come to the US to study; some home countries don't have the capacity to meet their educational needs. But many now view the US as an uncertain or even unwelcome place for study; thus more vigorous outreach needed.
- President Cheng: Please share with friends and neighbors we have not misused public funds. Auditor General language was loaded and thus caught the public's attention.
- Opened for Q&A:

- *My concern is with any funds being used to purchase first class/business travel. Could you provide information on Tom Cheng, his status, pay, whom he reports to, etc.?* Yes, that can be provided. He travelled as a University employee. He staffs me.
- *Can you look a donor in the eye and justify the expenses, the uses of the foundation money?* The outcomes of the Russia trip were significant, and of good benefit to the University committee. Healthy return on investment.
- *Why was the trip to Russia important to NAU and why was the president was needed to attend?* Daniel Palm: the next level of relationship building with our partners—important the president come to show the serious commitment.
- *There is greater scrutiny for all of us, it seems.* Yes, these are procedures we should have been following all along.
- *You met with students today? Was this about the #ritaresign letter?* Yes. Student leaders asked how they could help. The signatories of the letter did not choose to attend.
- *Fortunate you were able to keep small raises in line for faculty last year. However, budget books reveal six different pay increase that were five figures for administrative positions. Please explain, given finite resources.* I've asked deans and chairs to make salaries competitive. Raised salaries for custodial staff. Compression will be created but we will deal with that. Committed to salary increases of 3% this year and bringing salary rates to 50% of CUPA.

Thanks for opportunity for open dialogue.

NAU Provost report—Diane Stearns

- Deans Searches: CAL Search, four candidates last week. Going over the comments, got good engagement. CEFNS candidates today. FRANKE is the third, CEIAS is after that. Get through all interviews before spring break.
- Q&A: *How many faculty received non-continuation notices?* Non-renewals will happen for performance. 1209 faculty, there are 1 or 2 non renewals for performance.

VP for Academic Affairs—John Masserini

- Sasaki Consulting shows after months of data collection that we don't have a space problem, just a problem of poor utilization of space.
- Need to address congestion resulted in drafting Class and Classroom Policy.
- Discussion ensued: suggestions for policy, questions about MTE efficacy (data?), back-to-back scheduling and its impact on student retention, cancelled classes
- **VP Masserini's presentation Appendix A**

Summer salary discussion—SBS Senator Mohamed Mohamed

- University set fixed rate at \$6000 for a class capacity of 16. A positive change for many faculty. Why has SBS been allowed to raise that cap? Why isn't there better fundraising instead?
- Discussion ensued, ending with a request to the provost to bring the FSEC a report on how each college translates the 16-student cap; how many choose to exceed it, and where the savings resulting from pro-rated salaries go. Provost Stearns noted the provost does not micromanage a

college budget, and that the SBS dean is a good fiscal manager. Colleges have diverse funding models.

Applied Indigenous Studies—Karen Jarrett-Snider, Chad Hamill, and AIS faculty

- AIS proposes a move from SBS to the Office of Native American Initiatives in order to raise the program's profile, better deliver educational opportunities to students, partner with stakeholders, and recruit students.
- The move to a non-academic unit raises the necessity of bringing the request before FS.
- Discussion ensued: respect for self-determination to best determine its own curriculum and program; need to fulfill strategic plan in serving Native American students; caution about moving away from an academic dean; request for 2-3 year "check-in" on progress. Propose adding "dean" to title of VP of Native American Initiatives. How will P&T work? (affiliate faculty model, report to VP/Dean of NAI, then to provost). Provost Stearns: AIS is a treasure; acknowledges their desire to move from SBS, but notes that two VPs will have overlapping power in the proposed change.
- SBS Senator Marianne Nielson read a resolution from SBS Senators in support of the proposed move. Voted called; 35 in favor of supporting the move; 4 opposed. **Resolution Appendix B.**

Meeting adjourned 5:03

Appendix A

Course scheduling presentation

Appendix B

SBS Resolution