

[Disclaimer]

University Faculty Council Meeting, October 31, 2022, 9-11am, Via Zoom

Attendees: Mark Scarberry, Melissa Wasserman, Jay Brewster, Brian McGilvray, Chris Doran, Jim Gash, Donna Nofziger, Donald Childress, Veronica Viesca, Elizabeth Smith, Maretno Agus Harjoto

AGENDA

1. Prayer
-Donna Nofziger
2. Quorum and very brief introduction of members
3. Election of Officers
 - a. Chair
 - a. Mark Scarberry continuing on as Chair
 - b. Vice-Chair (not from the same school as the Chair)
 - a. Elizabeth Smith
 - c. Recording Secretary (minutes from prior meeting to be drafted and circulated)
 - a. Melissa Wasserman
4. Status of “Academic Freedom at Pepperdine” document at the schools:
 - a. Graziadio Business School
 - a. Put to vote at faculty- approved across the board
 - i. 68% of the faculty eligible to vote submitted a vote. Of those who voted, 100% voted to approve the proposed academic freedom statement.
 - b. Seaver College
 - a. Formal ballot to go out today and close EOD Thursday. Official count will be informed by Chris to Mark this Friday/Monday
 - c. Graduate School of Education and Psychology
 - a. Put to vote with very low turnout (3)
 - d. School of Public Policy
 - a. SPP passed
 - e. Caruso School of Law
 - a. Passed
5. Board update
 - a. Academic Standards Committee to look at next board meeting. Entire board will converse about the idea of academic freedom, understanding what it means, it’s history, why it is important, anticipate an active conversation about the idea of it, expect to be a full board vote on this at the March 2023 meeting.
 - b. Plan is for board to have an outside expert or two have a conversation with the board about what the idea of academic freedom means, in general. Conversation to be amongst the board members themselves. If this committee would like to send any information to the board, Jim will facilitate that. This committee will be made aware of who the experts are who will be sharing their expertise with the board.

- c. There is an opportunity for faculty to engage the board directly to say why this is important. Enhanced opportunity to explore some things with board members who may not be from the academic world to share and explain why this is important. An opportunity for dialogue and to participate and facilitate the conversation more directly.
 - d. Provost & President to discuss upcoming Academic Standards Committee (next meeting in December) collaboration with this committee. Invitation for dialogue between ASC and UFC.
- 6. Responses to WSCUC (WASC) letter
 - a. Provost putting together committee/task force to look at shared governance issues in response to the letter that we received from them. They asked to create a more formal description of what we do for shared governance and information sharing.
 - b. 5 items mentioned, the first two addressed diversity/equity, and second is shared governance. They are asking for a review of the UFC generated document on defining shared governance and looking at structures and procedures related to that moving forward,
 - c. Committee will be in place 18 months to work through some of these issues. We have a site visit in 2025 where we will have a deliverable before then. A couple of others related to information sharing/knowledge sharing- currently a subcommittee working on that.
 - d. It is important to have UFC representation on that committee- it will be valuable to have that perspective.
- 7. Other business
 - a. Other issues that members (faculty and administrators) may wish to raise
 - i. None
 - b. Other issues with regard to University Strategic Plan or WSCUC letter
 - i. Where do we locate that? Google Drive Link to be provided
 - c. Additional issues? Possibility of drafting a freedom of expression statement or a faculty responsibility statement? Role of UAC?
 - i. Faculty responsibility statement about standards within the field- levels of what it takes to have “good scholarship.” Is that something we want to look at and/or freedom of expression statement?
 - ii. Freedom of expression statement: we currently have something in the employee manual about an employee sharing views and opinions and how those are separate from the system. Do we want to formalize a policy related to that, e.g., [The Chicago Statement Freedom of Expression](#) Committee Report.
 - d. 2 meetings ago- Rick Walton brought forward trying to streamline the reimbursement and travel policies.
 - i. There will be a discussion at steering to look at a new possible avenue going forward that would be responsive. For the next meeting- the potential streamlining changes to those policies may be in the works.
 - e. First meeting of shared governance is coming up in November. *there is representation for 3/5 school- missing rep from Caruso and PGBS- would be helpful to get folks from those two schools. Mark would be willing to rep Caruso and/or UFC and Agus from PGBS. Mark & Agus will be representing both UFC and Caruso/PGBS.

8. Motion to Close the Meeting Mark, Trey Second, Donna Third. All in favor
9. Meeting Adjourned