

Meeting Minutes

Date: March 11, 2016

Committee: University Faculty Council – Pepperdine University

Place: Seaver Board Room, TAC Main Campus

Time: 11:30 AM – 1:15 PM

Attendees:

Mark Scarberry (Chair)

Thomas Vandergon

Lincoln Hanks

Rick Marrs

Lee Kats

June Schmieder

David Ralph

Ted McAllister

Michael Magasin

Nancy Harding

Andrea Scott

Ron Cox

Christine Goodman

Karen Martin

Business:

The meeting was called to order at Noon by Mark Scarberry and an overview of the agenda was presented.

Agenda Items:

1. Approve minutes from last meeting
2. Elect a Vice Chair
3. Proposal to Amend UFC Charter for Vice Chair Position
4. Update on progress of Shared Governance Taskforce
5. Committee Liaison Reports
6. Presentation on Benefits Costs for the University from Lauren Cosentino

Minutes of previous meeting were reviewed and the attendance roster amended to include David Ralph who was accidentally left off the prior meeting list. A recap of the Vice Chair nominations and decision occurred with the minutes noting the confirmation of the election of Nancy Harding as Vice Chair. The minutes were then approved. As a result, Nancy Harding is the elected Vice Chair.

A discussion began concerning the method of selecting a Vice Chair with the idea of maintaining continuity in the leadership roles on the UFC. A proposal was introduced whereby the Vice Chair

should move to the Chair position in the following academic year and be responsible for calling the first meeting of the new academic year. Such a change would require amendment of the UFC charter, which currently provides for election of a Chair and Vice Chair at the beginning of each academic year.

Opinions on pros and cons of proposal were offered. Some cons to the idea were that it would require election of a new Chair anyway if the prior Vice Chair were not an elected representative in the following year or could not serve. The pros included the benefits of continuity and the ability of the outgoing Chair and the Vice Chair (as chair-elect) to work together during the summer on UFC matters. Another advantage of the new proposal would be that the Chair each year would be from a different school in the university. Ultimately, the discussion came down to whether the UFC would accept an informal understanding that the Vice Chair would become Chair in the following year or instead whether the UFC should propose an amendment to the UFC charter.

It was suggested that the title for the Vice Chair be changed to Chair Elect to reflect the concept of the proposal.

Mark agreed to come up with language for an amendment to the UFC charter that will be passed to the group prior to the next meeting. Further concerns were voiced as to how this arrangement would work if the Chair Elect were not chosen as a UFC representative for the following year. In such a case, the current procedure of election of the new chair at the first meeting of the new academic year would be followed.

The Council as a whole agreed to the proposal for Mark to draft language for a Charter Amendment. This concluded this agenda item.

Nancy Harding provided an overview of the work to date of the Shared Governance Task Force made up of current and former UFC members, Rick, and others chosen by Rick.

1st Meeting – Task force outlined four areas of concern for Shared Governance and began the task of trying to decide whether to develop a set of “best practices” for each.

2nd Meeting – The task force spent a great deal of time discussing the importance of trust and communication. A lively discussion of “Who owns pedagogy?” occurred and the intricacies of on-line learning were discussed, particularly where oversight for assessment is necessary. The use of LiveText (out of Lisa Bortman’s office) was introduced. Rick added that the LiveText issue needs to be seen in a larger context leading to standardization for assessment which is aimed at helping faculty do assessment; but it does impact pedagogy. This is just one way that WASC and other outside forces can affect pedagogy.

3rd Meeting – The task force discussed best practices in hiring and considered a model for Best Practices in Hiring for Seaver College developed by Tom. There was vigorous discussion. Two ideas were favored including having faculty choose faculty members who would sit on hiring committees, and having faculty representation outside of the hiring area (but within a division or school as appropriate) on hiring committees.

Liaison Representative Reports:

Nancy Harding – as a member of the University Planning Committee, Nancy arranged for Lauren Cosentino to speak to the UFC on university Benefits Costs and Challenges.

June Schneider spoke about the new Ph.D in Global Leadership and Change. She thanked Lee and Rick for the time spent in meetings and then reported that after 2.5 years of subcommittees and reports, the new Ph.D. was approved by WASC. The invaluable role of Lisa Bortman was acknowledged.

Rick suggested that he could provide the UFC with some information on trends in higher education and how graduate education is changing. This information is based in part on a report by David Attis (an expert in this area). The Council agreed that it would like to hear more information on this topic.

Christine gave a brief summary of the Diversity Council's activities. They have been working on the history of diversity at Pepperdine. Also in the works with Jay Brewster is development of a Diversity Award. They are working on a diversity statement to pass before the board and the university planning committee. The function of the statement is to affirm diversity at the university. It was suggested that the UFC have a role in reviewing the statement prior to its submission to the UPC and the board.

The Council discussed issues that it might consider moving forward. The status of the White Paper and discussion of Pepperdine as a Premier Christian University was raised. The concept and idea is under discussion by the board. The practical side of the issue is marketing of the university. A discussion of marketing the university brand occurred: Does this require faculty input or not?

Nancy introduced Lauren Cosentino to provide the UFC with information discussed at the University Planning Committee on Benefits Costs.

Lauren provided a thorough outline of the current and past trends in health benefit costs. She explained how the university has been working to simplify the health benefits. One move is to match the health benefits with the calendar year rather than the academic year. She explained how the university has been managing to shift and modify costs to maintain Platinum plan status. These are going or gone in most industries. Questions and discussion followed. The committee was appreciative of hearing from Lauren.

The discussion at an end, the committee adjourned at 1:15 PM with Mark requesting agenda items for the following meeting tentatively scheduled for April 15.

Submitted by:

Tom Vandergon

September 21, 2016