

University Faculty Council Minutes

Date: September 28, 2016, 1st meeting of academic year

Place: Seaver Board Room, TAC Main Campus

Attendees:

Administration:

Provost Rick Marrs

Associate Provost Lee Kats

Seaver College:

Lincoln Hanks

Karen Martin

Cooker Storm

Tom Vandergon

GSBM:

Larry Bumgardner

David Ralph

Andreas Simon

GSEP:

Barbara Ingram

Paul Sparks

Law:

Mark Scarberry

Michael Helfand

Not attending

Administration:

President Andy Benton

Social Policy:

Ted McAllister

Pre-meeting informal socializing: We assembled at 12:20 for lunch and informal conversation.

At 12:50 the group came together and Mark reviewed the history and purpose of the UFC. The meeting was called to order at 1 PM.

1. **Elections:** By unanimous consent we selected Tom as Chair. Barbara was unanimously elected as recording secretary. **Tabled:** Election of vice chair.
2. **Approval of minutes:** Minutes from March 11 were unanimously approved without change.
3. **Discussion of proposed amendment to UFC charter:** Last year's UFC proposed that we amend the charter to make Vice-Chair the Chair-elect. The Vice Chair would become Chair on August 1 and call the first meeting. We discussed the following issues: possibility that Chair-elect would not be selected by school to be the representative; the benefits of having a Chair from a different school every year; and the loss of continuity by not allowing the Chair to serve consecutive terms. A motion was made and seconded to approve the amendment. A motion was made and approved to table it, in view of absence of members and the need for new members to think about it. **Tabled:** Motion to amend charter.
4. **Discussion of new chapter of American Association of University Professors (AAUP).** We discussed the following issues: question of whether this chapter would affect how UFC functions (we agreed that it would have no influence); interest in learning how grievance processes or salary negotiations might be affected by presence of chapter; the absence of mention of AAUP in handbooks; and whether the AAUP's ability to sanction or censure a university would have any

impact. Representatives from different schools differed on whether they would want to participate in notifying faculty of the existence of the chapter. **Action:** Barbara, an officer in the AAUP chapter, will send out an email with relevant links to items on AAUP site.

5. **Provost reported on Educational Advisory Board (EAB) meeting:** Rick attended a workshop for provosts in Washington at this think tank and found it very helpful in such areas as academic affairs, IT, business operations, and data/analytics. **Action:** Rick offered to present slides and let us know what he learned.
6. **Provost reported on ad hoc shared-governance task force.** He explained that they had selected 5 topics: Curriculum (pedagogy), hiring faculty, enrollment management, programming, and finance and budget. They concluded that schools differ in practices and that there is definitely room for improvement in shared-governance practices. The task force agreed that they would never reach consensus on a *prescriptive* position paper and decided it could be appropriate to post *best practices* on provost website. **Action:** Rick will disseminate a draft of the document so we can consider it and be prepared for future discussions in UFC.
7. **Vice Provost announced Wave of Innovation program is running for third time.** October 15 is the deadline for first round; it is open to students, staff and faculty; and there is online application. Next phase involves more details about budget. **Action:** Representatives were asked to spread the word.
8. **Discussion of faculty representation on University Planning Council (UPC):** Current policy is that UPC has 3 faculty representatives from 3 different schools, selected by the Provost office for 3-year terms; thus each year there are two schools that are not represented. In 2013 the UFC voted that no school would be unrepresented for more than 3 consecutive years. Each school is supposed to present two candidates; however, recently the School of Public Policy declined to have a representative. A motion was made, seconded, and discussed: **UFC recommends UPC consider making a change in the charter to allow each school's faculty to select representative to the UPC, so that all five schools have the opportunity to have a representative each year.** We agreed that the addition of two faculty representatives would not have any effect on decision-making because the UPC only makes recommendations. **Tabled:** Motion to table to our next meeting was carried.
9. **Topic of Encino campus:** Since the question of whether the lease will be renewed affects two schools (GSEP and GSBM), we decided that this was an appropriate topic for UFC. Discussion focused on how faculty members are not included in decision processes (failure of shared-governance) and how the decision makers may be focusing solely on financial considerations rather than impact on programs and on commitment to diversity. **Action:** Tom will invite decision-maker(s) to speak to UFC at our next meeting.
10. Meeting was adjourned at 3 PM

Submitted by:
Barbara Ingram