

University Faculty Council Minutes

Date: April 11, 2017, 4th meeting of academic year (this replaces January meeting that was cancelled because of extreme weather)

Place: WLA campus, Room 212 Campus

Time: 11:30 -12 for lunch, 12 to 2:00 for meeting

Member Attendees:

Administration:

President: **Andy Benton**

Provost **Rick Marrs**

Vice Provost **Lee Kats**

Seaver College:

Tom Vandergon (Chair)

GSBM:

Andreas Simon

David Ralph

GSEP:

Barbara Ingram

Law:

Mark Scarberry

Public Policy:

Ted McAllister

Members not attending

GSEP: **Paul Sparks**

GSBM: **Larry Bumgardner**

Law: **Michael Helfand**

Seaver College:

Lincoln Hanks

Karen Martin

Cooker Storm

1. We opened with a brief discussion of whether to stop having alternate meetings at WLA, in view of low attendance today and the fact that some GSEP and GSBM representatives may find Malibu equally convenient. **Action:** Will discuss at first meeting in the fall.
2. Amendments to the March 29 minutes were presented. Approval of minutes for March 29, 2017 meeting will be conducted by electronic vote.
3. The chair of the University Diversity Council (UDC), Associate Dean Bob de Mayo, (GSEP Division of Psychology) gave a presentation with the following highlights:
 - a. Description of Provost's mandate: development of diversity plan with timeline towards 2020;
 - b. Frameworks for diversity from D. G. Smith (2009): climate and intergroup relations, institutional viability and vitality, education and scholarship, access and success.
 - c. Presentation of revised draft of Statement on Diversity:

Pepperdine is a Christian University with an uncompromising commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Our faith celebrates diversity as a true representation of God's creative expression and cherishes the sacred dignity of every human being. Only through the full inclusion of each community member can we make complete the transformative educational process. We strive to build a diverse community of fellowship. Therefore, we pursue academic excellence and a shared sense of belonging with the understanding that a broad range of diverse perspectives enriches the quality of our learning, scholarship, and service.

- d. Encouragement that UFC join UDC to promote more faculty engagement and commitment to meet the needs of our changing student body to help them deal with rapidly diversifying society.
4. Discussion:
 - a. We can agree in abstract that “diversity is good,” but we need more specificity about goals and purposes of UDC in order to have meaningful conversation.
 - b. Is religious diversity a goal? Regents impose conditions for selecting faculty based on religious qualifications.
 - c. Concerns about threats to academic freedom when subject of faculty research is addressed under diversity goals.
 - d. What is going to happen to the “statement”? What problem does it solve? Would each of the 5 sentences get approval from UPC?
5. **ACTION:** We are accepting the charge to increase involvement and interest in UDC issue. We affirm that this is an important topic and we want faculty to be more engaged in this very important topic.
6. Topic: *Shared Governance task-force document: “Best Practices in Shared Governance at Pepperdine University.”*
 - a. Mark Scarberry explained his modifications.
 - b. Provost: clarified that it is a descriptive statement, not prescriptive. The document was drafted from Lindsay’s notes. Many edits make it a better document. On some issues there was not unanimity about best practices.
 - c. **ACTION:** the members of the task force will be contacted by the Provost to look at different versions of the report and reach consensus on a final version.
7. Topic: Faculty representation on university committees such as Management. **ACTION:** Next year we should have more reports from liaisons.
8. Topic: Faculty development. Ted McAllister shared the thoughts he developed with Ron Cox and Cooker Storm about how to promote faculty collaborative sessions on theme of “*what it means to be a good Pepperdine Faculty member,*” when we have five very different schools. He clarified that he is sharing his own view and not that of his two colleagues. He proposed that we need a genuine conversation in which we seek to understand diverse points of views of others through discussions of selected readings on philosophical and historical perspectives on teaching. The goal might be a final product that is a consensual document.
9. **ACTION:** Ted, Ron, and Cooker will prepare a proposal, with budget, for the Provost for an August retreat for 17 faculty members with a discussion leader who is outside the

university. UFC reps are encouraged to go back to schools to generate interest in this event.

10. We will postpone discussion of the message from the new Title IX Director regarding making classroom meet Title IX goals while continuing to promote climate of intellectual challenge. Chicago and Princeton are responding to claims of “safe classroom” with arguments regarding academic freedom. **TABLE:** We will address the topic in the Fall.
11. Adjourned at by 2:10 pm.