

Meeting Minutes – Seaver Faculty Association Meeting

Meeting Information

Date:	04/20/2016	Location:	Elkins
Time:	8:30 AM	Meeting Type:	Regularly scheduled
Called By:	Karen Martin, President	Note Taker:	Kindalee De Long, Secretary-Treasurer

Announcements

- Devotional, Ira Jolivet—interpreting the world through the eyes of faith, believing in the impossible hope of life
- Donations requested for Jose in the Faculty Dining Room.
- Robert Lloyd: Has accepted a position as dean of the school of arts and sciences at Palm Beach Atlantic University. He says goodbye and thank you for the many years at Pepperdine.
- Secretary-Treasurer’s report
- Recognition of retiree: Ira Jolivet
- Approval of March minutes

Agenda Items

1. Title: Non-Academic Grievance Policy: Student representatives from SGA

Presenters Omari Allen, Edward Adutwum

Summary Last month, SGA passed a resolution to revise the non-academic student grievance policy. This resolution revises the title and language to make the policy more understandable and to increase awareness, so that students may more readily seek help with issues that arise between themselves and professors. SGA plans to create an FAQ sheet regarding the policy and is exploring options for professors to have a link in their syllabi to the policy. They invite faculty comments regarding the policy.

Discussion

- SGA should be applauded for taking a proactive approach. Several faculty express support for the overall goal.
- Syllabi are already very full.
- Language about disability may not be necessary, as this is already covered in ADA. However, it could also be helpful to repeat it.
- Suggestion that the new policy explain the process (whom the student should contact, how, etc.).
- Who will write and approve the new policy? Answer—Each year, the student handbook is revised by student affairs overseen by Mark Davis. Any policy related to syllabi goes through AAC, SAC, then UAC.
- Will the policy change or simply the language? Answer—SGA is open to advocating for change of policy.
- Suggestion that this could be a joint SGA/SFA effort.
- A suggestion offered that SGA consider including specific language related to

sexual orientation. • Timeline? If there are changes, these would occur before the fall.

2. Title: SFA Update on faculty governance

Presenter Karen Martin, President

Summary (1) K. Martin presents a list of SGA initiatives on screen. (2) The task force on diversity (GE) has met five times. The students initially requested a course. The task force is exploring alternative options, such as a required course component (analogous to the writing intensive requirement). The task force will survey faculty this summer to find out what courses currently being taught have a diversity component. (3) The ad hoc committee on inclusiveness, diversity, and classroom climate is exploring how to welcome all kinds of students, make them feel safe, and encourage full participation. Even when faculty believe we are being welcoming, we may not understand how students are responding. (4) Faculty-led initiatives are occurring. Kristen Chiem will lead an artwalk, involving Christopher Columbus statue and mural. Dan Rodriguez will host a panel of Hispanic students for Hispanic awareness month. (5) The SFA resolution regarding emeritus faculty and voting was approved and constitution is being revised. (6) Thanks to all who worked on SFA and university committees this year.

3. Title: University Athletics Committee

Presenter Chris Doran, Associate Professor of Religion, Chair, University Athletic Committee

Summary The committee used to be a Seaver only committee but transitioned to university-level committee, in keeping with national best practices. It has modeled how students can participate in a university committee (two students are voting members). It created a student survey; instituted a faculty-coaches luncheon program; worked on various issues (Title IX, hazing, LGBTQ). Student-athlete academic performance has increased steadily. Half of athletes are now at 3.0 above. There are still transparency issues to work through. Certain majors/divisions have been less accommodating to student athletes than others, often due to scheduling. There have been fewer anecdotes of classes not being accommodating to student athletes.

Discussion • What steps are being taken to address class scheduling issue? Answer— Right now, the committee is in a data collection mode. Also, since the overall schedule might change, we are on a holding pattern. Problem is not just on academic side, but also coaches' side. They could reschedule some practices.

4. Title: Teaching and Learning Committee

Presenter Stella Erbes, Associate Professor of Teacher Education, Chair, Teaching and Learning Committee

Summary She has an interest in educational technology and discovered that surprisingly, there is no SFA committee that addresses educational technology. There are entities on campus that address ed tech, but no systemic

bridge to faculty. At the same time, the Teaching and Learning Committee needed new tasks. As a result, she, Cooker Perkins Storm, and the SFA Executive Committee, are proposing restructuring the committee as the Teaching, Learning, and Educational Technology Committee.

5. Title: Committee on Women Faculty

Presenter Kendra Killpatrick, Professor of Natural Science, Associate Dean of Seaver College

Summary K. Killpatrick and Kindy De Long co-chaired the committee this year. The committee initiated a program to apply for support for dependent care while attending conferences, which is now available to all schools. It is seeking to formalize the process of getting childcare for SFA meetings and will provide childcare for graduation this year. It organized the third annual Women in Leadership Banquet recognizing Peggy Crawford from GSBM. It wrapped up the pilot female faculty mentoring program involving 29 faculty members, which ran 16 months and was a very successful program. The committee anticipates starting a new session of the mentoring program in January. If there is any matter faculty would like the committee to address, talk to K. De Long, the new chair.

6. Title: SEED Program and Goals of Associate Dean

Presenter Kendra Killpatrick, Professor of Natural Science, Associate Dean of Seaver College

Summary (1) The SEED program has been in place at Wesleyan for about 30 years, inviting schools/businesses to send members to seek training on diversity. This summer, John Peterson, Bert Ballard, Rebecca Kim, and certain staff members will attend. Next year, these three faculty members will run a SEED seminar program for faculty. SEED seminars will meet on Wednesday mornings and will not conflict with any other meetings. It will be an in-depth program, seeking to strengthen the university as a whole. K. Killpatrick is taking sign-ups now, but the final deadline will be in the summer. (2) In her role, K. Killpatrick seeks to craft an overall identity as a Seaver faculty (not just by division). Some initiatives include a working retreat at the Pepperdine beach house; an all Seaver ice cream social following Step Forward Day; a summer movie night in August; and a bring your kids to work day for faculty.

7. Title: Academic Integrity Committee

Presenter Chis Heard, Associate Professor of Religion, Chair, Academic Integrity Committee

Summary The AIC received twenty cases this fall, four of which required hearings. There were only six new cases this semester. As we go into final exams and research papers, be attentive and do not ignore your own suspicions. We encourage faculty to file reports. Please don't choose to handle it yourself. It's important for the report to be in the system, in order to see patterns with particular students. AIC always starts the year wanting to be proactive but

ends up being reactive due to time constraints. However, an exciting development is that some of our librarians have been working on an educational model that we can use as part of our sanction process (citing sources properly, etc.).

8. **Title: Faculty Development Committee**

Presenter Courtney Davis, Assistant Professor of Mathematics

Summary The committee makes recommendations on sabbatical applications, but not decisions, using a rubric, which it has recently revised. It is happy to receive faculty input on the new draft. The FDC does not believe that staffing issues should be considered as part of the decision making process, yet such was present in the rubric. It preferred some of the language used by chairs as they completed the form and incorporated that language into the new rubric. It clarified that the divisional dean's recommendation should be about the project specifically and not about staffing issues.

Discussion • Do faculty members get to see scores? Answer—no, the scoring is internal to the committee. But the new rubric makes it easier for the committee to advocate for faculty. • Can the draft be sent to faculty for comment and review before it's finalized? Answer—we are in discussions with Karen about next steps. We are in the process of inviting faculty comment, either from the Executive Committee or more broadly. The goal is to use it next year.