

Academic Assembly 2020 Summer Session No. 1
July 8, 2020
2:05–4:00pm, Zoom Meeting

MINUTES

Attendance: Frank Shih, Nalini Iyer, Russ Powell, Holly Ferraro, Sarah Bee, Terri Clark, Margit McGuire, Kirsten Thompson, Chris Palka, Mike O'Donoghue, David Fomin, Cheong, Greg Ruppel, Sen Arvidson, Eric Bahuaud, Kathryn Ziegler, Michelle DuBois, Rob Aguirre, Lydia Bello, David Green, Agnieszka Miguel, Rosa Joshi, Jen Sorenson, Mary Kay Brennan, Dylan Helliwell, Natasha Martin, Katherine Raichle, Sonia Barrios Tinoco, Maria Hernandez, Charles Lawrence, Alvin Sturdivant, No Robinson, Harriet Phinney, Robert Dullea

Minutes taken by Lindsey Nakatani

- I. AcA President Update 2:05–2:08
 - a. AcA President gave brief overview of meeting agenda and of the newest AcA Members.

II.

IV. Black Lives Matter, Impact, University Response/Endeavors
 Shane Martin, Natasha Martin, Alvin Sturdivant

2:15–2:45

- a. Meeting with the Black Student Union Update from Dr. Natasha Martin
 Dr. Natasha Martin found the meeting to be very productive with high levels of engagement with the students. Students shared their desires for change and the pain, isolation and struggle students have been experiencing around these issues. The students spoke a lot about “raising the bar” of an adequate response from a learning institution. Students would like to see this response take the form of more scholarships for historically underrepresented student populations, more pathways for those students to come to SU and thrive, increased professional development opportunities for students, faculty and staff, anti-racist pedagogy and greater attention given to equity issues across campus. The question facing the faculty is “how do we advance the curriculum in an intentional way?” Overall, the students expressed a desire for a qualitatively different experience at SU for a different kind of relationship from the university. This movement extends to f

- h. Strong faculty movement on these initiatives in the past were able to get off the ground. The faculty would like to see more financing, accountability and care given to hiring faculty from historically underrepresented populations. Perhaps the BOT could dedicate money to scholarships supporting students from underrepresented populations. TCS moved, in a letter signed by numerous CAS faculty, to make a course on race, a required part of the CORE. The Office of the Provost has not met with these constituencies yet but is planning to soon. Provost Martin would gladly support such a motion. There were also lingering questions about SU's relationship with the Seattle Police Department, as well questions regarding SU's Campus Security force. These questions still need to be discussed and answered.
- i. Faculty would like to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of the Seangf(S)Tj 2

alignment between the needs of students, faculty and staff. Faculty and students seem to be shifting their initial preferences as the situation and news reports change during the pandemic.

- c. What is the decision date for letting students about fall reopening? Initial approximations placed the deadline around August 15, however university leadership believes an earlier date would be more beneficial. The leadership is looking to land a date somewhere in early to mid-August. (Note, this was later clarified that the decision date will be July 31)
- d. In the context of teaching first time students and allowing faculty to choose their preferred modality, by a large margin, teach first time students. What protocols will be in place to protect NTT faculty from being taken advantage of? The university leadership maintain its commitment to supporting all faculty in their decisions for what is best for their situations. This speaks to the alignment between student and faculty preferences. If the alignment shifts or is no longer there, further options will be explored.
- e. The faculty has perceived a hesitation on the part of the university leadership regarding making concrete decisions. The faculty would like to encourage continued flexibility for schools/colleges when the deadline for decisions comes.
- f. What would the economic hit to the university be if there had to be an immediate switch of reopening strategies? The data and survey results do not accurately provide an answer to that question. The CFO is continuously modeling different scenarios. There is the potentiality for significant reductions in tuition revenue as well as housing revenue. Should an emergency strategy switch need to be implemented.
- g. Faculty are frustrated that returning students are not being surveyed about their instructional experiences in the spring quarter. Their responses could assist faculty in their planning for the fall. The university leadership understands this. (r)4.6

- e. The Law School representatives would like to remind the university, that the Law School starts three weeks ahead of the rest of the university. In terms of decisions for reopening, what is timely from the perspective of the university, may not be timely for the Law School.