Minutes: August 24, 2015
3:00-5:00 p.m. Old Main Boardroom


Absent: L. Breci, M. Felix, J.C. Mutchler (Parliamentarian), L. Ritter, and R. Richardson

Guest: Jeremy Frumkin, Internet Technology Strategy Group Liaison

Call to Order
Chair Brewer called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Approval of the minutes of April 20, 2015
The minutes of April 20, 2015 were approved.

Review of the Faculty Senate Agenda for August 31, 2015
Report structure was discussed and J. Sun asked if the same format will be continuing this year. Nadel answered that yes, the students and APAC will have the same reporting structure. A separate agenda item can be added if there is a topic that needs to be brought before the Senate.

Nadel reported that he was meeting with Senior Vice President for Research and Discovery, Kim Espy to formulate the topics for agenda item #11. Committee members agreed to move Executive Session to the end of the Senate meeting to allow all in attendance to be present for the Other Business agenda item before being excused from the meeting.

Agenda items from Undergraduate Council: Course Syllabus Policy Updates and Faculty Support of Students Policy
D. Ray reported that The Course Syllabus Policy hasn’t been updated since 2005. Syllabi differ from faculty member to faculty member. Nadel made reference to number nineteen, “Notification, if the instructor believes necessary, warning students that certain course content (to be specified) may be deemed offensive by some students.” A recent article in The Atlantic has triggered concerns, and the Faculty Officers have decided to construct a faculty forum on October 12, 2015 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Kiva Room addressing this issue. Brewer asked if syllabi can be updated over the course of the semester since it’s not listed in the policy. McKean said the only things that cannot be changed are the grading and absence policies, but schedules and readings can be changed. Number seventeen, “Statement indicating that the information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policies, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor,” addresses Brewer’s question. Nadel suggested that the word “policy” be changed to “guidelines,” and that a statement of principles between instructors and students be implemented. Brewer suggested that a timeline on instructor feedback be incorporated into the document. Incorporating online course guidelines, listing items that are required, recommended or optional, and updating the policy in a more organized fashion will help alleviate its overwhelming content. The overall consensus of the committee is to postpone this item for Senate approval until the document is more fine-tuned. The Teaching Quality Taskforce can also be involved with suggestions for the document.
Approval to update the Policy on Faculty Support of Students is recommended to be brought back to Undergraduate Council before it is approved by Faculty Senate.

Approval of the 2016-2017 Senate and Senate Executive Committee Schedules
The committee approved the schedules to be voted on at the August 31, 2015 Faculty Senate meeting.

Updates from the Faculty Officers
Nadel said that the first Chair Talk that was sent out the previous week outlined accomplishments from the previous year. The next Chair Talk will outline the discussion topics for Senate in order to gather input from campus constituencies. Galilee-Belfer suggested discussion addressing the issues brought on by the influx of more students, and how faculty can step up to serve the growing student population. The Senate discussions for the fall semester are Eileen Klein, President of ABOR for October, teaching quality with Senior Vice Provost Gail Burd in November, and Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students Kendal Washington White in December.

Brewer said that the Open Access (OA) ad hoc committee and Non-tenure Track (NTT) ad hoc committee have been on hiatus over the summer. The NTT ad hoc committee developed draft principles related to NTT faculty, presented recommendations to the Provost for minimum salaries for full-time NTT faculty, developed bylaws for NTT faculty in the role of shared governance, and developed several draft models for potentially expanding access to NTT faculty in shared governance that will be brought to APPC and the Committee on Faculty Membership before being presented to Senate. The OA ad hoc committee had some membership changes, and by November the Task Force will have proposals to bring to Senate. A merger is proposed between Hydrology and Atmospheric Sciences and the proposal is on the ABOR September 2015 agenda for approval. Once ABOR approves the merger, it will be ready for approval by the November 2015 Senate meeting.

McKean said that the Faculty Governance website has been updated with an “Introduction for Senators” that was contained in the hard copy Faculty Governance Handbook. A review of committee structures, charges and membership was undertaken over the summer and is still an ongoing project that possibly the Senate Executive Committee may want to be involved with. There are many committees that are reactive instead of proactive. A committee’s goals might include the charge for each committee to provide an annual report and set agenda items for the upcoming year.

President’s Update – Jon Dudas
The three things being discussed at ABOR are: 1) a simple Strategic Plan for policy-makers and legislators describing guiding principles and goals, 2) new funding going forward for Arizona resident students, and 3) regulatory reform. The Strategic Plan will align with UA’s Never Settle Strategic Plan. The performance funding model is too complex, and the goal is to implement a revised funding model that will bring increases to the University. With respect to regulatory reform, the items that the UA is pressing for is more commercial partnerships and retaining more tuition dollars. Comrie said that since the recession hit, the UA is short approximately $80M in monies owed. Alternate strategies for reimbursement are under consideration.

Provost’s Update – Andrew Comrie
Comrie met with the Dean of Social and Behavioral Sciences, J.P. Jones regarding the low salaries of NTT faculty. A budget hasn’t been established yet, but thanks to the NTT Task Force, this project is underway. Allocation will be in the $40K area, and an announcement will be forthcoming shortly. RCM is in progress and will be looked at again at year’s end. John Rocznik is the UA Foundation interim president and CEO, while a search is ongoing for a new president for the Foundation. The Development teams campus-wide have seen a wide change of personnel recently. The contract the UA has with the UA Foundation has some unique provisions and is a hybrid model that is currently under review. The NOW fundraising campaign is currently at the $1.3B level, with the goal of $1.5B hopefully being reached by
next summer. It is estimated nationally that for every eight Development Officer positions available, there is one person qualified to fill the job. Internet Technology security concerns are at the helm and the UA is increasingly under cyber-attack. Measures are being taken to orchestrate a more secure infrastructure.

**SPBAC Update – Mika Galilee-Belfer**
SPBAC’s goals for the upcoming year will be looking at RCM implementation and the governance of intended and unintended consequences. The SPBAC co-chairs would like to implement a panel of colleagues who are charged with the oversight of RCM issues. Being in the formative stage, conversations with the involved parties will be forthcoming more likely in the spring semester.

**Graduate Council Update – Koen Visscher**
No report.

**GPSC Update – Juhyung Sun and Sarah Netherton**
Over the last few weeks, GPSC picked up dozens of domestic and international students flying into Tucson International Airport for the first time, and Graduate Orientation was successful. GPSC is looking forward to bettering its program concerning what aspects of leadership are sustainable and what aspects need improving. Goals for GPSC are to work more on healthcare issues, deepen legislative partnerships, and improve department by department engagement, including broad-base engagement on the campus as a whole. T. Tong asked about the travel grants that GPSC offers. Sun and Netherton said that GPSC is attempting to ramp-up communications on travel grants because more applications for travel can be accepted from graduate students to help them offset expenses. Currently, the travel grants amount to $750 per student per academic year, and GPSC is considering offering an increase to $1,000.

**Student Affairs Policy Committee Update – Theodore Tong**
Tong informed the committee that SAPC has been operating more on a reactive than proactive basis. The committee, in conjunction with Dean of Students Kendal Washington White can look at social, development, open educational resources and language issues, which are topics the committee would like to address in the near future.

**Function of the Research Policy Committee, University Committee on Corporate Relations and University Committee for Monitoring Labor and Human Rights Issues**
Nadel said that historically, these three committees were formed to address issues that were pertinent to the UA on a variety of different subjects. With the formation of Tech Launch Arizona, and the restructuring of the Vice President for Research and Discovery Office, there may not be any further requirement for these committees. Comrie suggested that Nadel initiate conversations with the appropriate entities to see if there is still a place for the committees within the Senate structure.

**Charge of the Senate Executive Committee**
Committee members discussed if the current charge of the Executive Committee can be broadened to include policy-making charges.

**Update on IT issues – Jeremy Frumkin**
Frumkin suggested organizing a larger group with more perspectives by forming a Senate ad hoc committee. The Faculty Officers may decide to include IT issues as a Faculty Senate discussion agenda item.

**Adjournment**
The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Recorded by Jane Cherry