Summary of the UA Faculty Senate meeting on Monday, March 7, 2016
Approved Minutes of previous meetings, plus agenda, reports from Faculty Officers, ASUA, GPSC, APAC and the Provost and President are available at: http://facultygovernance.arizona.edu

REPORT BY FACULTY OFFICERS

- A recent faculty poll about the sharing of scholarship as widely as possible found that 88% felt it was extremely or very important, 7% felt it moderately important, and 5% found it slightly important or not important at all. Several comments correctly pointed out that support for this goal should not be understood as equating with support for Open Access journal publishing, which is but one way of pursuing broader access to scholarship and research findings.
- UA hosted a successful annual meeting of the Pac12 Academic Leadership Coalition February 26 and 27.

QUESTIONS FOR ASUA, GPSC AND APAC

- APAC representative Breci responded to a question about the impact of federal legislation on changes in exempt/non-exempt status based on salary. The proposed salary maximum for non-exempt will be in the $50,000 range - significantly higher than currently – but the limit hasn’t been set yet by the Federal Government.

REPORT BY PROVOST COMRIE

- Productive meetings were held with the student leadership with regard to tuition. Numbers were not released at the meeting.
- The Veterinary Medicine accreditation should be received by the end of March 2016.
- Two Search Advisory Committees have been appointed, one for the College of Humanities Dean and one for the Chief Information Officer/Vice President for Information Technology.
- Academic Program Reviews are progressing, with several completed (including program accreditations).
- Approximately 100 Promotion and Tenure/Continuing Status and Promotion packets are currently under review in the Provost’s Office.
- Discussion of quality indicators for ABOR’s revised strategic plan are proceeding, to be continued at the upcoming ABOR meeting.
- The naming of an interim dean for Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture is in process.

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT HART

- ABOR opposes the proposed legislative bill for concealed weapons on Arizona campuses. There is an ongoing dialogue with lawmakers for a safe, weapons-free campus with all three University Presidents.
- The UA-encouraged funding model that focuses on state support for in-state students (with an eventual goal of a 50/50 split) is proceeding. A funding amount of $32M is receiving positive discussion.
- Focusing on regulatory reform, the state should not rely on the Universities to fund areas in which they are less than optimally efficient and effective. Savings would continually accrue if the University system acquires its own medical insurance, with an approximate $28M minimum per year savings.
- The University shared governance communities continue to be involved with all of the campus-wide groups on issues related to campus climate and inclusive excellence.
- Hart noted that her decision to join the Board of Directors of the for-profit Devry Education Group was driven by a desire to stay actively engaged and informed to insure that students completing higher education under that model will have better opportunities to thrive.
**ACTION ITEM:** Senators unanimously approved the following resolution:

“The Faculty Senate of the University of Arizona emphatically opposes any legislation permitting firearms or other weapons to be allowed on campus, and specifically opposes AZ State House Bills HB2072 and HB2338, which would increase the number of guns on campus and endanger the safety of faculty, students, staff, and campus visitors.”

**NON-CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Faculty Support of Students Policy AND Final Exam Regulation Amendments

Seconded motions from Undergraduate Council passed unanimously and can be accessed through the faculty senate March meeting minutes.

**DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEM**

Senator Vaillancourt presented updates to approximately twenty policies in UHAP; these updates are all either corrections for accuracy, or that remove non-policy language (i.e., information on resources) from the document. Senate supported the proposed changes to UHAP.

**OPEN SESSION**

Senator Brock representing GPSC commended Athletics Director, Greg Byrne, for tabling a student athletics fee this year, pending further conversation. In particular, Brock noted with appreciation Byrne’s professional demeanor in setting a perfect example of proactively and positively engaging with students.

**STRUCTURED DISCUSSION ON SHARED GOVERNANCE AND THE ROLE OF NON-TENURE FACULTY AS MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY**

The Non-tenure track ad hoc committee shared a proposal to consider unifying and expanding active participation in shared governance to a larger portion of non-tenure track faculty, specifically those on multiple year-to-year contracts, by expanding the definition of general faculty in the Constitution. Senators were asked to respond to the following discussion questions:

“In thinking about your own units and departments: what are the current practices with NTT faculty participation in shared governance? How would you characterize those practices in terms of effectiveness?”

Sample responses ranged from giving all non-tenure track faculty the same rights as tenure track faculty to providing voting privileges within committees and certain areas, but not for seconded motions that are to be voted on by tenure track faculty.

“What might be improved through the inclusion of non-tenure track faculty as members of the General Faculty and where might there be concerns?”

Sample responses ranged from a sense that there would be a better connection with students, a more vibrant and inclusive Faculty Senate, and a better sense of what NTT faculty think and feel to concerns that NTT faculty, by virtue of their year-to-year contracts, might not be sufficiently independent of those making hiring decisions to withstand pressures from outside sources in casting their votes.

More discussion to follow.