Minutes of the Dornsife College Faculty Council Meeting

January 11, 2017

Present: Jeff Chisum (President), Trisha Tucker (Vice President), Daniel Pecchenino (Secretary), Emily Zeamer, Antoine Bechara, Gioia Polidori, Matthew Kahn, Iva Bozovic, Shannon Gibson, Rebecca Broyer, Nathalie Burle, Michael Hadjidaniel, Geraldine Peters, David Tompkins, Lori Mesrobian, Sheila Briggs

Absent: Bob Girandola, Alison Dundes Rentln, Wiebke Ziebis

I. Academic Senate Reports
   a. Changes to Academic Integrity Policy
      i. The school is planning to move oversight of academic integrity issues from the Provost’s Office to individual schools
         1. Faculty would have to adjudicate these cases via committees
         2. Jeff Chisum expressed trepidation at the idea of decentralizing this
            a. Members echoed this sentiment
         3. Questions were asked about why this was happening and the potential effects
            a. Is this an efficiency issue?
            b. Who is currently on the SJACs committee right now?
            c. Could this create potential issues re: retribution or tension among colleagues?
         4. A vote was taken about the DFC’s position on this
            a. DFC was unanimously opposed (15-0)
   b. Part-time Faculty Compensation Shift
      i. Currently on a per-class basis
      ii. Shift would be toward “person-based compensation”
         1. This would take things like experience into account
         2. Rebecca Broyer brought up an issue of how FT faculty are compensated for overloads
            a. This could lead to situations where PT faculty are making more per class than FT faculty
         3. Lori Mesrobian brought up the issue of how we define “part-time”
            a. Could this actually lead to situations where very experienced PT people are passed over?
         4. Jeff hopes that this will become clearer in the benchmarking process
   c. Email Retention Policy
      i. No one had any concern about the new 16-month retention policy
   d. Childcare
      i. UPC and HSC issues have been mostly resolved
         1. There was ultimately no service disruption at the UPC site
         2. UPC site will expand
         3. One remaining issue is discrepancy in fees between the two sites
e. Statement on Institutional Values
   i. Senate released a statement reaffirming shared academic and social values
      of the institution (posted on the Senate’s website)
      1. Jeff said that the “Professor Watchlist” was mentioned in relation
         to this at the Senate meeting
         a. David Tompkins asked if we should ask for language about
            the “watchlist” to be added to the statement
         b. Sheila Briggs said that this highlights the importance of
            solidarity, especially in Dornsife where some disciplines
            are quite distinct from one another

f. Sustainability
   i. Last year’s DFC President Darren Ruddel is leading the Senate committee
      on Sustainability
      1. He talked to former colleagues at Arizona State University about
         their efforts to become a leader in the field
      2. There are concerns that the school has not done enough to
         prioritize this problem

h. Students in Crisis
   i. Eileen Rosenstein and Lynette Merriman came to discuss the support
      system for distressed students that actually already exists
      1. Websites
      2. Phone numbers
   ii. Lori asked how aware students are of these services
   iii. Rebecca found the services harder to utilize than they should be
      1. There is a waiting list
      2. If you walk a student in, you can get help
   iv. Are these services as robust as they could be?
      1. Do students actually have to go off campus for some counseling
         services?
   v. Sheila told a story about a serious incident with a student in her
      department
      1. What do we do about students who aren’t willing to receive help?
      2. Rebecca brought up potential online training modules for diffusing
         situations with worrisome students
   vi. Geraldine Peters brought up the issue of students who aren’t being
      disruptive, but are potentially depressed, dangerous, or at risk of falling
      behind
      1. What can/should we do about this?
      2. Sheila echoed this and brought up the problems of negotiating
         issue of “psychological diversity” on campus
         a. How can we help destigmatize mental health issues so that
            students take advantage of available services?
   vii. Lori brought up lack of communication about Bosco Tjan’s murder and the
      ongoing investigation
      1. Is there an investigation going on about how the institution has
         handled this?
II. Discussion and Voting
   a. Resolution on Teaching Eligibility
      i. Jeff handed out our resolution asking that “expertise,” not a particular
degree, should be required to teach a class
      ii. A vote was called
          1. The resolution passed 14-0
   b. Salary Benchmarking
      i. Jeff notes that we have to do (at least) three things
         1. Determine our peer institutions
            a. What are we requiring of faculty that is beyond other
               institutions?
         2. What are the discrepancies due to the overall depression in the
            market?
            a. Should we establish floors?
         3. Reform the appeals process
            a. Dean Miller seems amenable to this, but likely not for this
               year
            b. We need to first find out who the person to go to with these
               complaints
            c. This connects back to larger transparency issues
               i. How can we appeal salary without numbers for
                  comparison?
      ii. Sheila made the case that the cost of living in LA must be taken into
         consideration when talking about benchmarking

III. Updates
   a. Elections
      i. Dan Pecchenino and Lori Mesrobian gave an update from the Elections
         Caucus
         1. Call for nominations will happen at the beginning of February
         2. Voting will take place the first two weeks of March

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Pecchenino, Secretary

The Dornsife Faculty Council