Minutes of the Dornsife College Faculty Council Meeting

March 1, 2017

Present: Jeff Chisum (President), Trisha Tucker (Vice President), Dan Pecchenino (Secretary), Emily Zeamer, Gioia Polidori, Iva Bozovic, Shannon Gibson, Bob Girandola, Michael Hadjidaniel, David Tompkins, Lori Mesrobian, Geraldine Peters, Rebecca Broyer, Nathalie Burle, Sheila Briggs, Stephen Mack (guest), Samantha Broitman (guest), George Newhouse (guest), Beatrice Mousli Bennett (guest)

Absent: Alison Dundes Rentln, Wiebke Ziebus, Antoine Bechara, Matthew Kahn

I. Approval of Minutes from 2/1/17 Meeting
   a. Approved unanimously by all Councilors present

II. Academic Senate Reports
   a. Daniel Pecchenino reported about the Senate meeting on Feb. 8 about the recent executive orders on immigration
   b. Trisha Tucker reported about Senate meeting on Feb. 15
      i. More discussion on the university’s response to recent executive orders
         1. Provost Quick argued this is an academic institution, and as such he, not the President, should be responding to these issues
      ii. Student proposal for Fall Break
         1. This had come up a few years ago, but Jeff Chisum said this year’s proposal was much more convincing
         2. Rebecca Broyer brought up the potential issue this might pose for lab-based classes
      iii. Sally Pratt came to discuss changes to graduate stipends
         1. Raising minimum graduate stipend to $30K in two years
   c. Provost’s Retreat
      i. Provost Michael Quick gave a speech about a range of issues, including the recent executive orders, faculty pay, and faculty evaluation
      ii. The next panel was on diversity and inclusion
         1. Several panelists discussed the new “Diversity Liaison” model, as well as the ongoing efforts of the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion
      iii. The next panel was on First-Year Experience
         1. Presentations were given on what “FYE” classes are, USC’s orientation procedures, concerns about student anxiety, experiences of minority students, and a new course OT is developing to help first-year students transition better
      iv. The final panel was on safety on campus
         1. Ilene Rosenstein noted that her office got over 1800 calls about distressed or worrisome students last year
         2. Rosenstein also noted that we should err on the side of intervening
            a. General Counsel will support us
b. We should not assume that Counseling Services knows about all potentially troubled students
c. We can actually ask SCS to come observe a problem student in our classes

III. Caucus Reports
   a. Part-Time Faculty
      i. George Newhouse came to discuss his Caucus’ work
         1. One of the Caucus’ goals is figuring out what exactly the various constituencies need
            a. Developed a survey to send to Part-Time faculty to figure out what their issues are
               i. Plans to get to get the survey out shortly
               ii. Emily Zeamer suggested perhaps combining the survey with a broader survey for RTPC faculty
                  1. One theme that came up was that the experiences of Part-Time Faculty and RTPC faculty vary quite a bit by departments
            iii. Jeff suggested the Part-Time Caucus get in touch with the Academic Senate’s Part-Time Faculty Committee
   b. Faculty Affairs Caucus
      i. Steve Mack and Beatrice Mousli Bennett discussed the benchmarking work and report they have produced
         1. One question brought up is how this will affect our current RTPC promotion structure that begins at Lecturer, not Assistant Professor (Teaching)
            a. Earlier in the year, Dean Miller seemed amenable to the idea of stating people at Assistant Professor
         2. What about the UC numbers?
            a. Would those averages come in lower?
            b. Steve also noted that RTPC faculty at USC do work comparable to what professors are liberal arts colleges do
         3. Jeff Chisum asked what the Council thinks about the Caucus’s findings:
            a. Iva Bozovic was concerned that the numbers might be too conservative
            b. Several people brought up how these numbers could help with our retention policies
         4. Sheila Briggs asked why the Caucus was not benchmarking all faculty salaries
            a. Dave suggested that we might need a separate proposal for TT faculty

IV. Presentation on the search for the new “College Dean of Undergraduate Education”
   a. Guests from search firm Isaacson, Miller who are looking for a new position designed to separate graduate education responsibilities from undergraduate education
i. Natalie asked what this position would do in relation to Deans that are already here

ii. Jeff suggested that one measure would be retention of majors

iii. Iva and Michael reported on some of the ideas the Curriculum Caucus is looking at
    1. Mentoring
    2. Balancing professional and intellectual development
    3. Improving faculty-student interactions
       a. How do we help all students?

iv. Several people suggested that this person would have to be an exceptional teacher

v. Sheila brought up the problem of how many administrators we already have working on different areas of GE and undergraduate education, and suggested that we need to have someone who can bring together the various “boxes.”
    1. Essentially a big-picture thinker who can reshape the whole project and make it more coherent
    2. Emily seconded this

vi. Steve asked what the search team has already heard
    1. Using data to make more informed decisions about student programs
    2. Stopping major flight

vii. Geraldine Peters suggested someone with a background in the sciences

viii. Sheila brought up the distinction between turning students already here into Dornsife majors vs. bring in students via admission who want to be here

ix. Emily asked if there are similar Deans in other schools
    1. The search firm reps didn’t know if the position exists in other schools

V. **Vote on Resolution 16/17—002**
   a. Resolution to ensure that Merit Review committees are constituted via election
      i. Sheila brought up the issue of small departments and fairly sharing administrative work
         1. Jeff noted that the resolution does leave some wiggle room for smaller departments
         2. Resolution passed unanimously

VI. **Dean Miller’s Visit**
   a. Caucus Reports
   b. Discuss two resolutions
   c. Budget Priorities
      i. Salary discussions
      ii. Professional development accounts
      iii. Sabbaticals/Gap funding
   d. Undergraduate dean
The meeting was adjourned at 5:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Pecchenino, Secretary

The Dornsife Faculty Council