Minutes of the Dornsife College Faculty Council Meeting

September 7, 2016

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

I. Introductions: President Chisum leads introductions of DFC members.

II. Discussion and Vote
   a. Vote on Michael Hadjidaniel to replace Erik Kolb (resigned) at DFC President’s discretion.
      i. Final vote: 12 yeas, 1 abstention
   b. Resolution 16/17-001: Revision to Bylaws
      i. Move to add Dean Miller as ex officio member
      ii. Concerns were raised about whether or not we will be able to discuss issues related to the Dean-DFC relationship
      iii. Question was raised about logistical issues surrounding Dean Miller’s attendance
      iv. Suggestion that we should revisit this issue when we see what the relationship with the new Dean is actually like.
      v. Vote has been tabled until at least October meeting and more discussion.

III. Report on Academic Senate Planning Retreat
   a. Trisha Tucker provided a recap of the August 16 retreat
      i. One of the focuses was interdisciplinarity and “wicked problems”
         1. How do we facilitate greater interdisciplinarity?
         2. Question: Was the focus more on research or teaching?
            a. Breakout groups discussed both, but more emphasis appeared to be on research.
         3. Question: What are the benefits of encouraging interdisciplinary work?
            a. Bridging gap between HSC and UPC
            b. Bringing needed and often missing perspectives to “wicked problems”
            c. There’s a desire on USC’s part to get us to apply for more grants, thus the push for us to think across disciplines
            d. Interdisciplinary teaching is incredibly hard to do across schools, as schools are protective of resources and end up putting up barriers
               i. Sheila Briggs made the case that the new Dean made interdisciplinarity a huge part of her pitch, so we might approach her about changing some of the rules that prevent interdisciplinary teaching
ii. Second half of retreat focused on campus crises and responses
   1. Speaker from UCLA talked about June shooting of Professor Klug
      a. One problem is that too much help actually pours into campus from outside agencies
      b. Lori Mesrobian brought up a recent training session in her program that left professors more scared than anything else
      c. Shannon Gibson brought up her own efforts in her class to show students how to respond to an active shooter
      d. Members shared several concerns about lack of preparedness on part of USC faculty, students, and administration
         i. Problems with designs of buildings
         ii. Lack of uniform communications
   2. What should USC faculty do?
      a. Spread word to other faculty
      b. Perhaps show “Run, Hide, Fight” video
      c. School wants to do a training
         i. But can’t do it when students are around
   3. Alison Dundes Renteln brings up point that this discussion needs to touch on identifying students in distress
      a. How can faculty help grad students feel appreciated?
      b. Can we get training to deal with distressed students?
   4. Rebecca Broyer mentioned that other schools have online training for dealing with distressed/potentially dangerous students
      a. Can we get access to this training?
      b. Training for departments is available
   5. Lori Mesrobian brought up the option of DFC sponsoring an event about this
   6. Alison Dundes Renteln suggested making it a mandatory part of the faculty training

IV. Discussion of Caucuses
   a. The Faculty Affairs Caucus
      i. Goal of caucus is to collect data about faculty salaries and create benchmarks for different classifications
         1. Ginger Clark will be leading this effort on the Provost level
         ii. Concerns raised about the fact that USC and other private schools do not make this data publicly available
         iii. Alison Dundes Renteln brought up issue of gender inequity in this
         iv. Will transparency be a part of this discussion?
            1. Up to a point—anything that might identify individuals is off limits
            2. Matthew Kahn brought up problems with running the numbers without identifying individuals
         v. Sheila Briggs brought up the issue that while most faculty might trade privacy for transparency, university would likely oppose it
   b. Research, Documentation, & Policy
One goal is changing computer policy for funded faculty
   1. Get in touch with Dean’s Office and Budget Office to figure out how to get this done
   2. Perhaps putting computers back in the classroom
Figuring out “rules” that seem to be in play and where they are written down
   1. Goal is better transparency and perhaps better rules
Call for Chair
   1. Gerry Peters volunteers to be co-chair
      a. Also brought up issue of better codifying faculty rank requirements
   2. Wiebka Ziebis (absent) will be asked to co-chair
   3. Antoine Bechara and David Tompkins. offered to be on caucus

Part-Time Faculty
Devoted to looking at Senate resolutions about PT faculty and making sure they are implemented fairly
Trish Tucker noted that caucus chairs need to be aware of instructions for having PT faculty on caucuses in terms of compensation for service (new part of their contracts)

Curriculum
Trisha Tucker and Nathalie Burle explain that last year’s caucus explored how innovative curriculum could attract and retain student majors. This is a huge issue because 91% of Dornsife’s funding comes from tuition. Four main findings:
   1. Problems Without Passports, Maymester
      a. How can we make this easier?
      b. We need better College support
   2. Mentoring
   3. Undergrad-Faculty Research Opportunities
   4. Encouraging faculty to create interdisciplinary courses and even majors to fill gaps
      a. Policies and procedures
Call for Chair
   a. Michael Hadjidaniel, Shannon Gibson, and Iva Bozovic volunteer to be co-chairs

Elections
Work to get rid of bugs with system
   1. Do we use a program other than Qualtrics?
Work before elections
   1. Getting more TT faculty on ballots
      a. Meeting with chairs
   2. Getting the word out there
Call for Chair
   1. Dan Pecchenino, Secretary is chair
   2. Lori Mesrobian volunteers to be on committee
V. **DFC Agenda Items**
   
   a. Jeff Chisum asks for additions to the agenda
   
   i. Nathalie Burle brings up issue of office space
   
   ii. Nathalie Burle also brings up issue of sabbaticals for RTPC faculty
   
   1. Perhaps bring up opportunities for teaching faculty
      
      a. Fulbrights, Visiting Professorships
      
      b. What are the funding implications at the College-level?
         
         i. Will Dornsife fill gap between fellowship and salary amounts?
   
   2. Alison Dundes Renteln suggests that people should be encouraged to pursue funding opportunities that connect with Provost’s vision
   
   iii. Gioia Polidori Francisco brings up question about what the “Lecturer” track is
   
   1. There are differences in terms of what this means in different departments
      
      a. Who can teach what, for instance
   
   2. Lori Mesrobian also brings up getting the (Teaching) removed from titles
   
   iv. Alison Dundes Renteln suggests DFC supporting the libraries
   
   v. Gerry Peters brought up Research faculty concerns
   
   1. What do we do about faculty who have gaps in funding?
      
      a. If you drop below 50%, your benefits get cut off
      
      b. Sheila Briggs provides context about how chasing grants is becoming a profession-wide issue
      
      c. Do we need an articulated policy on this?
         
         i. Matthew Kahn brings up the idea of grant insurance

VI. **Union Election**
   
   a. Union has indefinitely postponed vote
   
   i. There is a sense that this is due to “diminished momentum”

VII. **Programming Budget**
   
   a. A call was made for suggestions for events. One suggestion was an ongoing speaker series, though the Council wondered about how this might be differentiated from other series, such as Visions and Voices.

II. **Announcements and Actions Items**
   
   a. Improving faculty outreach
   
   b. Difficulty of students finding offices and office hours
   
   c. Evaluating Preceptor program
      
      i. Mentoring
      
      ii. Workload

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Pecchenino
Secretary, Dornsife Faculty Council