



Academic Assembly
Monday, October 16, 2023
2:05 p.m. – 3:35 p.m.
Student Center 130 & Zoom

MINUTES

Members Present: Wan Bae, Carol Adams, Philip Barclift, Marc Cohen, Douglas Eriksen, Danieli Evans, Naomi Hume, Nalini Iyer, Tayyab Mahmud, Richard McGaha, Rachel Olson (Staff Council, *ex-officio*), Benjamin Jones-Rice (SGSU, *ex-officio*), Shane P. Martin (Provost, *ex-officio*), Patrick Murphy, Jodi O’Brien (Vice Provost, *ex-officio*), Bryan Ruppert, Patrick Schoettmer, Frank Shih, Aditi Somani (GSC, *ex-officio*), Kirsten Thompson, Phillip Thompson, Erin Vernon, Kerry Von Esch, and Glenn Yasuda.

I. Opening Remarks, AcA President Marc Cohen **2:06 p.m. – 2:18 p.m.**

- a. Meeting was called to order at 2:06 p.m. by Academic Assembly President, Marc Cohen.
- b. **MOTION** Moved by Marc Cohen: “Move to approve the agenda for the October 16, 2023, meeting of the AcA.” Seconded. **Approved. Unanimously.**
- c. **MOTION** Moved by Marc Cohen: “Move to approve the meeting minutes from June 5, 2023, as revised, out of session, by AcA members.” Seconded. **Approved. Unanimously.**
- d. **MOTION** Moved by Marc Cohen: “Move to approve the meeting minutes from October 2, 2023, as revised, out of session, by AcA members.” Seconded. **Approved. Unanimously.**
- e. Academic Assembly encompasses working with administration to implement their proposed changes, initiating their own plans for improvement, and acting as communication channels between faculty and administration. This ongoing interaction is essential for effecting operational changes and relies on faculty service through the committee structure. Currently, AcA is in the process of defining its identity, operations, and implicit norms.

II. Provost’s Welcome and Updates, Provost Shane P. Martin **2:18 p.m. – 2:26 p.m.**

Provost Martin recently returned from back-to-back trips. He attended a conference of the provosts from the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU) and a conference of the Association of Universities Entrusted to the Society of Jesus in Latin America (AUSJAL), where he served as a keynote speaker and highlighted Seattle University's reputation as an innovative institution within the Jesuit network.

The university's main priorities, as outlined in the Strategic Directions formed with faculty feedback, aim to enhance professionalism and sophistication by strengthening infrastructure, policies, practices, guidelines, and communication. The faculty is actively involved in projects like the APR process and initiatives related to the student experience. Encouragingly, retention rates are improving compared to the previous academic year. This progress is attributed to the

collaborative efforts of our committee system, demonstrating our robust shared governance structure.

III. APR Updates, Vice Provost Jodi O'Brien

2:26 p.m. – 2:51 p.m.

In collaboration with the Office of the Provost, revisions to the APR process are advancing through discussions and dialogue with faculty working groups in each school/college. Focusing on each of the steps in the implementation guidelines (see pre-read), these working groups are establishing faculty performance expectations distributed across teaching, scholarship, service, and institution building (and in the case of CON, professional certification). The primary aim of the new performance expectations is a university-wide process that is streamlined, equitable and inclusive, and indicative of our commitments to ongoing faculty development, student success and accountability to the Seattle University and to higher education. Discussions of the revised performance expectation categories, and corresponding evaluation rubrics and processes will be regular AcA topics over the fall in anticipation of an expected university-wide pilot APR to launch in 2024 (as a replacement to all current APR processes at college/school levels). Information sessions and training will be available in January 2024 and the pilot will be evaluated for additional revision in Spring 2024. During the discussion, concerns were raised about sufficient communication at the college/school levels about the work being done by the college/school working groups. Vice Provost O'Brien will follow up with each division.

IV. Program Review Committee Updates

2:51 p.m. – 3:13 p.m.

AcA VP for Curriculum Patrick Murphy, Charles Tung and John Fleming

The discussion centered on streamlining the program review process in collaboration with the Office of the Provost, aiming to clarify criteria for different review categories and maintain periodic scrutiny. This includes expediting revisions inspired by the Provost's Fellows work on sustainability and justice. The goal is to enhance efficiency from submission through Program Review Committee (PRC) review and to use Curriculog for processing. It also involves improving the review process for graduate programs.

V. Committee on Committee Updates and Appointments

3:13 p.m. – 3:31 p.m.

AcA VP for Committees Patrick Schoettmer

The discussion revolved around the upcoming faculty nominations to Board of Trustees committees due today, prompting consideration of the selection process and a review of the committee charters. There was a recognition of the need to assess structural changes in governance, particularly committee charter reform and harmonizing standing charters, as well as reviving committee structures post-COVID.

MOTION Made by Patrick Schoettmer: "I move to approve omitting the BoT committee nominees from today's slate of candidates." **Approved. Unanimously.**

MOTION Moved by Patrick Schoettmer: "I move to approve waiving the seven-day notice rule outlined in AcA Bylaws §7.6.1." **Approved. Unanimously.**

MOTION Moved by Patrick Schoettmer: "I move to approve candidates to AcA committees, University committee and Staff Council committee." **Approved. Unanimously.**

MOTION Moved by Patrick Schoettmer: "I move to approve the appointment of AcA members to the AcA Bylaws Committee and to the ConC." **Approved. Unanimously.**

VI. Open Business, *President Marc Cohen*

3:31 p.m. – 3:35 p.m.

The next meeting will discuss the proposed agenda for the quarter and year, including an additional November 6 meeting (details to follow). It will commence with a discussion on workforce engagement services, community engagement, and the use of executive sessions via Zoom.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.