

Academic Assembly
 April 6, 2020
 2:05 – 3:35pm, Zoom Meeting

MINUTES

Attendance: Frank Shih, Mark Taylor, Kirsten Thompson, Terri Clark, Nalini Iyer, Sarah Bee, Yancy Dominick, Angie Jenkins, Kathleen La Voy, Nicole Harrison, Chris Paul, Clara Cordova, Katie Oliveras, Shane Martin, Kate Koppelman, Dylan Medina, Margit Maguire, Michael Ng, Mimi Cheng, Patricia Buschel, Russ Powell, March Cohen, Arie Greenleaf, Patrick Murphy, Felipe Anaya

Visitors: Michael Quinn, Colette Taylor, Melore Nielsen, Irina Voloshin, Kirsten Swanson, Bonnie Bowie, Agnieszka Miguel, Estella Williamson

Minutes taken by Lindsey Nakatani

- I. Review 02-24-20 & 03-23-20 Minutes** **2:05 – 2:07**
- a. **Motion:** Move to approve the meeting minutes from 02/24/2020 and 03/23/2020. Seconded. **VOTE:** APPROVE: 18, OPPOSED: 0, ABSTENTIONS: 0.
- i. **Motion is passed** – AcA 02/24/20 and 03/23/20 Meeting Minutes Approved.
- II. Provost Update, Shane P. Martin** **2:07 – 2:30**
- a. The Provost gives his sincere wishes for health and safety to the entire AcA and their families. The Office of the Provost has been working diligently to maintain flexibility and understanding during these difficult times. The university has been relaxing its guidelines and policies for the SQ to support students, faculty and staff. The Office of the Provost is preparing a letter to the students explaining their options on grading policies and class withdrawals for the SQ. The Provost would like to highlight the continued need for community communication and community care during these unprecedented times.
- b. The AcA President thanks the administration for its continued work and assistance in supporting the SU community through this difficult time.
- i. *The students still need a list of courses that will be exempt to the new SQ, pass/fail grading policy change. Will this list be forthcoming soon?* The Office of the Provost is working on getting something out to the students, however the lists of exempt courses will need to be compiled by each department, program or college/school due to the varying requirements of each group.
- III. Test Optional Working Group, Melore Nielsen & Irina Voloshin** **2:30 – 2:45**
- a. Melore Nielsen thanks the AcA for their time, consideration and their review of the Test Optional Working Group’s final report. The final recommendation of the working group is to go test optional for the FQ of 2021. The working group would like to clarify that this decision was not an impulsive reaction to the current circumstances; this option was under consideration long before the outbreak of COVID-19. The most important question fueling the working group’s efforts and their final recommendation was to examine how we (SU) define student success? Student success should be defined as a student who is able to graduate, maintain their course work and perform well overall. Student success should not be based solely on test scores.
- b. The charted data in the final report shows the longitudinal data relationship of freshmen entering SU from the last 10-15 years in relation to their standardized test scores. There is strong evidence that

high schooler's GPAs have a much stronger correlation with retention and 4-6-year graduation than high schooler's standardized test scores' relationship with the same benchmarks.

- c. *Is there an ad campaign for the Test Optional motion? How will this change be advertised to the school?* Melore has constructed an entire ad campaign and it is ready to be implemented.
- d. The Provost has closely examined this question and in review of the report of the working group, the Provost has reversed his initial thoughts on the matter and gives his full support for this change. SU will see improved competitiveness along with a myriad of other benefits. SU advisors are currently reaching out to high school juniors who are strongly considering test optional schools. In addition, this change places SU in the company of other test-optional institutions, who are at an advantage under the current circumstances, because standardized testing facilities are closed.
- e. *How will this change be implemented?* The working group's final report includes a section on implementation. During the initial pilot period, enrollment services will be gathering data for year 2, 4 and 6-year reporting. The working group proposed that a qualitative study be conducted to ascertain the effect of this policy change on the university. Accountability strategies for the success of this policy change have been built into the final report of the working group as well.
- f. This change will be effective immediately upon AcA approval. The real impact of this change will not be felt until fall 2021.
- g. Student Perspective – Students with the means often take the SAT multiple times to achieve an optimal score. Some public schools pay for the SAT, most do not. Students who attend prestigious private schools also have the additional advantage of taking SAT prep classes. The system surrounding the SATs and SAT Prep intrinsically favor privileged, wealthy student populations and disadvantage poor or minority student populations. In addition to a lack of fiduciary support, some student populations do not have the same kind of familial support. Student study habits depend heavily upon a student's home life.
- h. Studies have indicated that the language and writing components of standardized tests favor privileged, white, wealthy, upper-class students, especially white males.
- i. The AcA agrees with the Test Optional Working Groups final report and recommendation. Immediate implementation is approved and encouraged.
 - i. **Motion:** Move to waive the one-week review rule. Seconded. **Vote:** APPROVE: 20, OPPOSED: 0, ABSTENTIONS: 0.
 - 1. Motion is passed** – AcA waives the one-week rule.
 - ii. **Motion:** Move to affirm the recommendation of the Test Optional Working Group. Seconded. **Vote:** APPROVE: 19, OPPOSED: 0, ABSTENTIONS: 1.
 - 1. Motion is passed** – AcA approves the Test Optional Working Group's recommendation.

IV. Program Review Committee – BOT items: STM and NCS Resolutions, Terri Clark 2:45 – 3:36

- a. **Motion:** Move to waive the one-week review rule. Seconded. **Vote:** APPROVE: 14, OPPOSED: 0, ABSTENTIONS: 1.
 - i. **Motion is passed** – AcA waives the one-week rule.
- b. **STM & NCS Resolutions (2:45 – 2:55)**
 - i. **Resolution Finalization Process Overview:** The financial survival of the university has prompted an ongoing examination of each program within the university, with a focus on those programs at

the center of the financial struggle. As a result of this examination, the STM Working Group and the NCS Working Group have brought forward the following two resolutions. (These resolutions are not to be confused with the final reports of the working groups.) The PRC participated in this review at the end of the FQ and made a full report to the University Review Committee. The UAC then finalized the subsequent resolutions. Finally, the PRC voted on and unanimously approved the resolutions at the end of WQ.

Questions/Discussion:

- ii. There is opposition to the NCS resolution in its current draft. There is concern regarding the seeming lack of consultation of the affected NCS faculty and departments regarding the NCS resolution. *To avoid the loss of vital curriculum, should the potential integration of the web programming and digital learning programs into existing departments be more closely considered before the sunseting of the college is approved? Perhaps the Strategic Planning Council could examine integration methods?*
- iii. *Would it be possible for the university to appoint a new dean of graduate studies to assist in integration efforts?* There is precedent for the position of Associate Dean of Graduate Studies. The faculty would like to see what administrative structure would be put in place for handling the reallocating of NCS graduate resources. It seems that the AcA should be voting on different, more detailed components of the reports rather than such an overarching resolution.
- iv. *Response to STM Resolution:* Graduate theological education has been a part of SU since 1969. This resolution, as it is currently drafted, would mark the end of 50 years of theological education at the university. The demographics of the STM student population are 75-85% female, the average age of graduate students is 42; STM has aspired to be multicultural and through its efforts has forged a network of partnerships with African American community organizations, especially in its Doctor of Ministries program. The founders of the STM were Universalists, and as such the school has fostered an incredible reputation for interreligious theological education. In addition, STM has become increasingly queer. There has been a rise in gay and lesbian students studying theology. This resolution in its current form would fail to find a way to keep this essential program. *Would it be possible to find a new container that could hold both grad and undergrad spirituality and theological curriculum study within the College of Arts and Sciences?*
- v. *Response to the NCS Resolution:* Some faculty members agree with the NCS resolution, that closure of the NCS would be the appropriate action to take. It is the opinion of some faculty that adult education and continued education is better served by being taught directly by the departments, schools or colleges teaching that curriculum. However, the resources that the NCS faculty and curriculum provide to the university need to be properly re-allocated to other parts of the university. NCS has already experienced a loss of qualified faculty members to other schools for offers of tenure and more agency in their career tracks. NCS faculty is uniquely equipped to serve and interact with non-traditional student populations and adult learners. Without proper re-allocation, these valuable SU community members might be lost. Due to the NCS's policy of high touch and student group focus, students have achieved positions in competitive programs and companies after completing their SU education. In addition, much of NCS's curriculum has been taught online since its inception. As such, NCS faculty is well-versed with utilizing technologies to best serve online education, which has suddenly become a vital resource to the university due to current circumstances. *What is the continuing plan to re-allocate and retain these vital NCS resources?*

- vi. Question of continuing Task Force process – There is still much uncertainty about how the current pandemic crisis could impact fall enrollment. Decisions may be made over the summer quarter, and thus may be made without faculty input. The AcA would like to play a role in framing how these conversations will be conducted over the summer quarter.
 - vii. There has been no mention of the potential cost savings of approving these resolutions. The education provided to students in these two colleges was of the highest quality and has never been under scrutiny. Therefore, the main consideration in closing these two colleges has always been financial in nature. But there has been no talk of numbers or savings. Knowing the cost savings would help inform the decision since the financial implications to the university has always been the driving factor. *Would it be possible to partially sunset these colleges, rather than close the schools in their entirety?*
 - viii. The working group process has been very strenuous, tense, challenging and difficult. Initial financial discussions were centered around the \$800,000 to \$1 million-dollar loss respectively of both the STM and the NCS. The faculty is asking for a fully-developed teach out plan for the sunsetting of these two schools. The challenge is that it is hard to develop a teach out without a clear, over-arching goal being established. These resolutions are intentionally general in nature so that work on a more detailed plan can begin. Teach-out plans would be developed, submitted and approved by the PRC and the AcA during the next AY. These initial resolutions are to help start and direct the continuing work. The teach out process for NCS would take approximately a year, possibly a little more and the teach out process for STM would take approximately two years.
 - ix. The final reports and the resolutions are two separate items. Teach out plans could not be completed in time for the April 2020 BOT meeting, which is the last BOT meeting for the 19-20 AY. These resolutions allow the BOT to give the working groups and the Strategic Planning Council the time and agency to continue work on the teach out plans for both colleges.
 - x. NCS faculty voices need to be consulted and need to play a vital role in the work to formulate a teach out plan. The AcA would amend the resolution to require consultation of the NCS faculty in development of a teach out plan. It seems that the closure of the NCS has jumped from working groups to resolutions with very little input from the faculty and students of the NCS.
 - xi. *Would this continued work on the resolutions and subsequent school closures fall under the purview of the Strategic Planning Council's (and its subcommittees) work on a comprehensive university curriculum reorganization?* These two resolutions and the working groups pre-date the Strategic Planning Council and the Strategic Directions Document. Considering all the factors, the larger question should focus on what kind of overall timeline these resolutions need to meet. There is concern from the administration that the university could lose an entire year of planning if these resolutions do not move forward immediately.
- c. **Motion:** Move to waive the one-week review rule. Seconded. **Vote:** APPROVE: 17, OPPOSED: 0, ABSTENTIONS: 2.
- i. **Motion is passed** – AcA waives the one-week review rule.
- d. The AcA amends the STM resolution language to the following:
- BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the President in consultation with STM faculty, students, and other relevant stakeholders to develop and implement a comprehensive plan for the transition of the School of Theology and Ministry, including but not limited to, sunsetting degree and certificate programs, integrating academic programs into existing university programs, developing teach-out plans for affected academic programs, and closing the School of Theology and Ministry.

- e. **Motion:** Move to approve the resolution regarding the School of Theology and Ministry (STM) as amended above by the Academic Assembly membership. Seconded. **Vote:** APPROVE: 16, ABSTENTIONS: 0, OPPOSED: 2.
 - i. **Motion is passed** – The Academic Assembly approves the STM resolution.
- f. The AcA amends the NCS resolution language to the following:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the President in consultation with NCS faculty, students, and other relevant stakeholders to develop and implement a comprehensive plan for the transition of the School of New and Continuing Studies, including but not limited to, sunsetting degree and certificate programs, integrating academic programs into existing university programs, developing teach-out plans for affected academic programs, and closing the School of New and Continuing Studies.
- g. **Motion:** Move to approve the resolution regarding the School of New and Continuing Studies (NCS) as amended above by the Academic Assembly membership. Seconded. **Vote:** APPROVE: 18, ABSTENTIONS: 0, OPPOSED: 0.
 - i. **Motion is passed** – The Academic Assembly approves the NCS resolution.

V. PRC Items for AcA Approval, Terri Clark (2:55 – 3:36)

- a. PRC Recommendation: Accept the memo regarding the SPEX program revision for the creation of a new Kinesiology honors program, lowering credit requirements and program name change from Sports and Exercise Science to Kinesiology.
 - i. **Motion:** Move to approve the SPEX-Kinesiology memo. Seconded. **Vote:** APPROVE: 17, OPPOSED: 0, ABSTENTIONS: 0.
 - 1. **Motion is passed** – The AcA approves the SPEX-Kinesiology memo.
- b. PRC Recommendation: Accept the memo regarding the related, regularly scheduled SPEX program review.
 - i. **Motion:** Move to approve the SPEX program review memo. Seconded. **Vote:** APPROVE: 18, OPPOSED: 0, ABSTENTIONS: 0.
 - 1. **Motion is passed** – The AcA approves the SPEX program review memo.
- c. PRC Recommendation: Accept the memo regarding the Educational Leadership Doctoral (EDLR) Program revisions including: credit change requirements to accept a master’s degree in its entirety (without delineating each course within the masters) and a name change to Educational and Organizational Learning and Leadership.
 - i. **Motion:** Move to approve the EDLR program revision memo. Seconded. **Vote:** APPROVE: 15, OPPOSED: 0, ABSTENTIONS: 0.
 - 1. **Motion is passed** – The AcA approves the EDLR program review memo.
- d. PRC Recommendation: Accept the memo regarding the creation of a new Computer Engineering Minor. This proposal would serve the needs of current and future students with no additional departmental expenses while also meeting market demands in the current field. Current students within the Mechanical Engineering and Computer Science departments have already expressed interest.

- i. **Motion:** Move to approve the Computer Engineering Minor memo. Seconded. **Vote:** APPROVE: 19, OPPOSED: 0, ABSTENTIONS: 0.
 - 1. **Motion is passed** – The AcA approves the Computer Engineering Minor.
- e. PRC Recommendation: Accept the memo regarding the new Data Science Minor. Discussion: This new 45 credit minor, is an interdisciplinary degree involving multiple departments and schools. The creation of this minor was in response to a joint taskforce’s final report and market analysis conducted by Hanover Research.
 - i. Ongoing Concerns of the PRC: There is still slight difficulty in discerning this new minor curriculum from others within the school. There are some additional resource requirements. This minor would draw from preexisting faculty and would also include a search for new faculty members. This program was designed to be in mutual development with the new applied data center, which is separately funded at the university level. This program would depend partially on the success of this new center.
 - ii. In terms of the need for additional resources, there is currently an Assistant Director of Corporate Relations and one Technical Admin Assistant. The department understands that this is a robust series of resource support requests. However, the program will be bringing in significant revenue. The corporate relations director oversees attaining corporate paid projects for senior project teams. Currently, this outreach brings in about \$400,000 worth of projects. The program will need someone to engage with the companies to sign up companies to provide projects for the students.
 - iii. **Motion:** Move to approve the Data Science Minor memo. Seconded. **Vote:** APPROVE: 11, OPPOSED: 0, ABSTENTIONS: 1.
 - 1. **Motion is passed** – AcA approves the Data Science Minor memo.
- f. PRC Recommendation: Accept the Data Science Master memo. There is concern that the College of Science and Engineering (CSE) has no excess teaching capacity and would require additional funding for teaching faculty for the new courses. Department may not be able to ensure the overall quality of teaching experience if the university does not provide funding for the new data science minor. The CSE is already operating under the highest student to faculty ratio and faculty are already teaching way above the normal workload. This is also contributing to why the department is requesting university funds for additional faculty to teach courses in data science.
 - i. **Motion:** Move to approve the Data Science Master memo. Seconded. **Vote:** APPROVE: 17, OPPOSED: 0, ABSTENTIONS: 2.
 - 1. **Motion is passed** – AcA approves the Data Science Master memo.
- g. PRC Recommendation: Accept the DNP memo regarding the proposed as follows: 1) Reopening of a Master’s Degree in Nursing (MSN), 2) Increase by 90 the number of clinical hours in the Advance Practice Nursing Immersion (APNI) program, plus and additional 30 clinical hours the following AY, for a total of 120 additional clinical hours and 3) Major curriculum revision and reduction of course credits in the Doctor of Nursing Program (DNP).
 - i. **Motion:** Move to approve the DNP memo. Seconded. **Vote:** APPROVE: 15, OPPOSED: 0, ABSTENTIONS: 2.
 - 1. **Motion is passed** – AcA approves the DNP memo.

- a. In accordance with the memo that was circulated to the campus on Friday, the AcA will be examining the student evaluation process for the SQ.
- b. Colleges claiming financial exigency due to the current pandemic crisis. The AcA president will forward an article with more information regarding the mechanics of financial exigency for the membership's reference. The AcA would expect the University leadership to call an emergency session should the university need to consider this option.
- c. Within the next ten days, the university will begin to see if there are any potential enrollment shortfalls for the spring quarter.
- d. University leadership will have to continue to work through the summer in response to the current crisis. How can the AcA continue to collaborate and consult? The AcA membership would like to devise a way for the AcA to continue to weigh in on matters over the RQ that will affect FQ 2020.
 - i. AcA will poll its membership to determine which members, if any, would be available to continue to meet over the summer. AcA will also consider setting a date for its spring elections to determine a new slate of AcA members for the FQ 2020.