

APARC Minutes

January 28 2020

Present: Laura Krier, Elita Amini Virmani, Sean Place, Elias Lopes, Karen Werder ,Karen Moranski, Megan McIntyre, Rheyna Laney, Neil Markley, Merith Weisman, Puspa Amri

Minutes: Puspa Amri

1. Introductions and welcome back.
2. Agenda approved (with a minor modification of the order of the agenda. Business item 1 should be before reports. Business item 2, classroom conditions survey, should also be postponed). Minutes approved. Minutes approved. Megan and Rheyna switched minute-taking tasks for Spring 2020.

REPORTS

3. Academic Affairs Report, AVP Moranski.
 - There are new programs in development and ongoing changes in existing programs, largely to meet Executive Order 1071.
 - Academic Programs has developed a template for academic planning, which would connect academic planning to resource allocation. Questions being considered include: what is the projected enrollment of a program, what is the actual cost of an academic program, what sort of library resources need to be developed etc. APARC is requested for feedback for this template of academic planning. AVP Moranski suggested that a modified version of that template (e.g., one which does not require a 5-year projection) could be an input/data element into program review.
 - Academic Programs is also working on software packages to produce a demand for workforce projection. If APARC would like to see a demo of the software package—as part of academic planning—it can be arranged.

BUSINESS ITEM

4. Item 1. Proposed Funding and Values Resolution: Ellen Carlton presented a resolution that funding sources share SSU's inclusive values and is requesting support for this resolution from APARC. The Senate Diversity Subcommittee (SDS) voted in favor of it.
 - Context and background examples were provided for this resolution. The logo of a certain company which donates to anti-LGBT causes was found on campus.
 - Neil Markley (AVP for Admin and Finance) responded that the university's relationship with outside companies come in two forms: a) a business

relationship (companies contract with SSU to provide services) and b) a sponsor or donation relationship. Regarding the former, the administration cannot make a determination on values. There are laws that must be followed for contracting purposes and Request for Proposals (RFP). Therefore, to pass a resolution against something SSU can not legally do is difficult. Suggestion: be pragmatic in wording of the resolution. For example: “strive to uphold..”

- Ellen responded that this might weaken the intent of the resolution.
- Megan suggested the resolution make it clear that it is not just about Chick Fil A. Laura K: the resolution would be easier to enforce if the values statement applies to all donors.
- Laura K and Megan both pointed out that the resolution is already about funding and donations (second type of business relations) and not about contracts or RFPs (the first type of business relationship).
 - Karen M : there are 2 places where the business side is referenced (one, the third whereas contains campus vendor and two, and in the word “soliciting” for the development, not in the selling of something).
- Neil: there are ways to build/design the criteria of an RFP so that it does not select a company which might not share SSU values. But to outright reject RFPs and contracting with a certain company is not possible. SSU terms and conditions do include non-discrimination (race, sexual orientation, age etc.); so a contractor’s agreement can be cancelled if the company/contractor violates these non-discrimination terms. A&F wants to encourage the adoption of a resolution that is doable.
- Sean: if the wording in the resolution is such that they cannot be ignored for simple legal reasons, it would be a more powerful message (why the business relations angle should be dropped).
- Sean proposes we send back to SDS and authors and ask for a revision. And then APARC will vote on it.

(BACK TO REPORTS)

5. Chair’s report (Sean):

- At ExCom, a resolution was reviewed on affordable instructional material. APARC passed this resolution in 2015. SDS (?) is charged with review initiatives started by various working groups to discuss issues of the rising cost for instructional materials. APARC may be asked to weigh in and recommend next steps.
- At the next APARC meeting Laura L will review the budget. More enrollment and budget shortfalls are expected for the next academic year. All units will take a 3% cut across the board. APARC needs to be cognizant at this in making our priority recommendations.

6. Campus planning update and university space advisory committee (Sean):
 - The committee met and came up with was to thinking about outdoor classroom usage.
 - As part of that meeting, Sean has been looking at Classroom Conditions survey. The plan is for Sean and Elias to meet with Dana Twedell (AVP for A&F Facilities) to talk about results from the Classroom Conditions Survey and what kind of measures facilities might already be planning, from that so that APARC can move forward with recommendations. Given this, for let's postpone business item 2 (Classroom conditions survey) until after the meeting with facilities.
 - Associated Students passed a resolution to extend the Classroom Conditions survey to the student population, to be administered in Spring 2020.
7. Stevenson Update

At the chairs meeting of the School of Social Sciences, Rheyna offered a sketch of 4 different classroom layouts and asked for input from the chairs: which layout would your faculty members prefer? The results indicate a variety of responses in terms of classroom layout. Perhaps a survey could be administered to the wider faculty. As to the idea of flexible classrooms, Laura K reported that based on library's experience, it doesn't work very well. Note that the different sketches of classroom layout need not be only in Stevenson, but other buildings as well. As SSU goes through renovations of other buildings, it is important to see what needs are being met/not being met in Stevenson.
8. UPRS: no update.
9. Business item 3- Update on Course Scheduling Module.
 - Senate voted to recommend that adopt Course Scheduling Modules in Dec 2019, to be rolled out in the Fall 2020.
 - Course modules available on SSU "scheduling" website.
10. Good of the order.