

## **Minutes**

### **Academic Affairs Committee Meeting**

**May 29, 2014 – 5:00 p.m.**

#### **Trustee Present:**

Kendrick Curry (Chair, Academic Affairs)  
Mary Thompson (Academic Affairs)  
Anthony Tardd (Academic Affairs)  
Gabriela Lemus (Academic Affairs)  
James Dyke (Academic Affairs)  
James Lyons, ex-officio  
Elaine Crider (Chair, Board of Trustees)

#### **Trustees Absent:**

#### **Staff Present:**

Rachel Petty, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Suzan Harkness, Special Assistant to the President  
Lena Walton, Co-Chair, Middle States Self Study Process  
Scott Barash, General Counsel  
Stacie Mills, Office of the General Counsel  
Beverly Franklin, Executive Secretary to the Board of Trustees

#### **Call to Order and Approval of Minutes**

Chair Curry called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. He asked the committee to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2014 committee meeting. The committee reviewed and unanimously approved the minutes.

#### **Roll Call**

Chair Curry asked for the roll call. The roll was called and a quorum was present.

Chair Curry reported there were individuals who requested an opportunity to speak before the committee. Each individual was given three minutes:

- Dr. Daryao Khatri, Professor of Physics, spoke about the pending faculty RIF, strengthening the university, and educational malpractice.
- Dr. Arlene King-Berry, Associate Professor, brought greetings to the Board as the Chair of the Faculty Senate. She spoke about strengthening the involvement of the faculty.

Dr. Lyons expressed appreciation for hearing from the incoming faculty senate president.

Chair Curry reported the committee would go into executive session to discuss matters regarding the faculty reduction in force. A motion was made and the roll was called to enter executive session. Chair Curry read the following statement:

In accordance with Section 2-575(b)(4), (5), and (10) of the D.C. Code, the Committee hereby gives notice that it may conduct an executive session to consult with an attorney to obtain legal advice and to preserve the attorney-client privilege between an attorney and a public body; for the purposes of planning, discussing, or conducting specific collective bargaining negotiations; and/or for the purposes of discussing the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, performance evaluation, compensation, discipline, demotion, removal, or resignation of government appointees, employees, or officials.

The Committee entered the executive session at 5:20 p.m.

#### *Executive Session*

At the conclusion of the executive session, Chair Curry reconvened the public session at 6:31 p.m. He announced that all matters acted upon in the executive session were proper.

#### **Reduction-in-Force: Discussion and Resolution**

Chair Curry presented the resolution regarding the 2014 Faculty Reduction-in-Force. The committee approved moving the resolution forward to the full Board of Trustees for consideration. Chair Curry read portions of the resolution into the record.

#### **Intellectual Property Policy: Discussion and Resolution**

Dr. Petty discussed the intellectual property policy which was sent to the Senate in October 2013. She noted Dr. Harkness worked on the policy and was available to answer any questions. The committee approved moving the resolution forward to the full Board of Trustees for consideration.

#### **Updates on Other Academic Matters**

*MAADI, Egypt Program.* Dr. Petty provided an update regarding the MAADI program. The students in the program have been notified of the intent to terminate the program. The deans in the business and engineering schools which have programs in MAADI have developed plans for the students in those programs to complete their degree requirements. Dr. Lyons noted that the MAADI program was approved as a branch pending a Middle States visit to Egypt. Given the situation in Egypt, Middle States has not been able to visit Egypt. Dr. Lyons explained that graduates from the program would be UDC graduates.

Dr. Harkness reported the teach-out is a two-year process. The last degree will be conferred in May 2016. She stated that roughly 158 students are in the pipeline.

*Accreditation.* Dr. Petty reported eight faculty members, representing the eight subgroups, are working during the summer to refine the research questions for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education Self Study. The plan has been approved. Faculty chairs have received training on assessment. Dr. Petty expects to have a draft report available for review by the Board of Trustees in October or November 2015.

Two fall visits by professional accrediting bodies have been scheduled. ABET will visit the computer science program and three engineering programs on October 16. The nutrition and dietetics program will be visited on September 7. Dr. Petty mentioned there are some challenges related to space and construction is in progress. The nursing program in the community college is projected to have a visit in September.

Dr. Walton provided additional information regarding Middle States. She noted a preliminary report will be available by the end of September 2015 in order to organize for the pre-visits of the [Middle States] Chairperson (Evaluation Team). During this summer and fall, data will be collected from all academic and non-academic units.

*Vision 2020 Strategic Plan.* Dr. Petty reported she and the deans have been in a retreat for two days. They are looking at implementation plans for the next academic year of the major *Vision 2020* initiatives. During the retreat, enrollment and advising were discussed. Dr. Petty noted a new enrollment manager will begin working at the university on July 15. There are plans to work aggressively with the cohort of entering students so that the six year graduation rates improve over the next several years.

Dr. Petty also discussed the following:

- An initiative to enhance faculty development activities;
- Online education training for twenty-two faculty during the summer 2014;
- Helping students to develop soft skills to be effective in college and the workplace; and
- Experiential learning (student internships and research experiences that will prepare students for the workforce).

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

At 7:03 p.m., Chair Curry reopened the meeting for a non-action item. The roll was called and a quorum was present.

Dr. Petty reported she approved Dean Massey's request for the reorganization of the College of Arts and Sciences into divisions rather than departments. There had been ten academic departments in the college. Dr. Massey's proposal involves the creation of four divisions:

- Division of Arts and Humanities
- Division of Science and Mathematics
- Division of Education, Health and Social Work
- Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

The plan is to implement the reorganization this summer with a new structure in the fall 2014.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

BEVERLY FRANKLIN