MINUTES OF THE GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
Monday, March 17, 2014, 4:00 p.m.
Leavey Program Room
(approved April 22, 2014)


GUESTS: Kelly Burns (Office of General Counsel), John Kotwicki (VP for Tax and Sp. Assistant for Financial Affairs), Lisa Krim (Senior Associate General Counsel), Adriana Kugler (Vice-Provost for Faculty), Beth Marhanka (Department Head of Gelardin New Media Center), Lee Reed (Athletics Director), Erik Smulson (VP for Public Affairs and Sr. Advisor to the President), P.J. Warwick (Cross Country Consulting),

The meeting was called to order by Wayne Davis, Faculty Senate President at 4:00 p.m.

Lee Reed, Athletics Director, presented an overview (including video animation) of the plans for the new John Thompson Jr. Athletics Facility. The current cost estimates for the building’s construction are in the neighborhood of $60 million, to be paid for by philanthropic giving. In response to questions, Mr. Reed clarified that the current plan is to have around $40 million in hand by Summer 2014, with the estimated balance of $20 million to be paid for by bridge financing—to be repaid to the university once fund-raising is complete. Operating costs are estimated in the range of $2 million per annum. The building will be constructed to the specifications of a “Gold” environmental rating. There
was some discussion surrounding the sacrifice of existing tennis courts to the new building. Mr. Reed indicated it would be a priority to build new courts to replace at least some of the old ones.

**University's Document Retention Policy**

John Kotwicki, Assistant Vice President for Tax and Special Assistant to the Vice President for Finance, briefed the Senate on the university administration’s just-commenced review of Georgetown’s document retention and destruction policy. He explained that the university’s annually filed tax form (IRS 990, wherein the university certifies its tax-exempt status) requires Georgetown to indicate whether or not it has such a policy as approved by the University Board; hence the decision to review and overhaul the policy with a view to submitting it to the Board for approval. The recent security breach at one of the university’s sister institutions, leading to the potential compromising of personal-identity information among tens of thousands of its former students and staff, constitutes a timely illustration of the risks entailed in not having a well thought-out, standardized document-retention/destruction policy.

Mr. Kotwicki introduced P. J. Warwick from CrossCountry Consulting, the firm that has been hired to help the university overhaul its document-retention policy.

The discussion that ensued led to a sense of the meeting that the Senate would like to review the draft revised policy before it is submitted to the Board for approval. Mr. Kotwicki undertook to act accordingly.

**ITEL Initiative**

Dr. Edward Maloney, Acting Executive Director of CNDLS, updated the Senate on ongoing ITEL (Initiative on Technology-Enhanced Learning) projects. Since its launch in Spring 2013, ITEL has been focused on three areas: 1) Funding experiments and projects related to on-campus technology-enhanced learning at all levels of the curriculum (from individual course components, to entire courses, to fields of study); 2) The design of MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) in partnership with edX (a project also known as “GeorgetownX”); 3) the targeted investment of resources in on-campus information-technology enhancements (such as the development of ubiquitous WiFi on campus).

Much of the ensuing discussion concentrated on the MOOCs, five of which will have been offered by Fall 2014. Dr. Maloney reported, by way of example, that one such MOOC (Prof. Ted Moran’s “Globalization’s Winners and Losers” course) had initially registered 35,519 students, out of whom only 1,978 became “active students,” meaning that they stayed with the course beyond an initial registration that allowed them to obtain detailed information about it. Out of those, 1,152 (58% of “active students”) completed the course and received certification. Grading was done by computer. Of those who completed the course, 70% held a Bachelor's Degree and 30% also held a Master's Degree. Their average age was 30, and they were 60% male, 40% female. The cost of developing one MOOC course was estimated by Dr. Maloney as being roughly $200,000 (depending in part on the amount Georgetown is to pay edX for each course—a matter that remains in negotiation). A number of Senators expressed skepticism about the prospects for a profitable financial return on such an investment. Dr. Maloney suggested that licensing fees might eventually prove more lucrative than tuition as potential sources of revenue from MOOCs. Members of the Senate also expressed skepticism about the potential of MOOCs as recruitment tools, given the high percentage of MOOC students who already hold at least an undergraduate degree.
Dr. Offie Soldin’s Passing

Wayne Davis noted with sorrow the recent passing of Dr. Offie Soldin, Associate Professor of Medicine and Oncology at Georgetown University Medical Center. Dr. Soldin had served as Secretary Treasurer of the University Senate and had also played an active role on its Steering Committee. She will be deeply missed by the friends and colleagues who had the privilege of working with her in the University Senate over many years.

Approval of Minutes

Motion #1: The minutes of Jan. 22, 2014 were approved with the following votes:

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The minutes of January 28 will be resubmitted for approval following some revision designed to more fully reflect aspects of the discussion that took place at that meeting.

Open Forum

There was a brief discussion that led to confirmation that at least one member of the Senate is serving on the university committee overseeing proposed changes to Georgetown’s faculty-retirement policy. It is expected that a draft policy will be ready for the Senate’s consideration in time for its April 22, 2014 meeting.

Appointments

Appointments confirmed:

a) IT Faculty Advisory Council: Tony Arend (SFS), Carol Taylor (NHS)
b) Flexible Career Committee: Suzanne O'Neill (Lombardi), Patricia Fairfield (MSB)

Motion #2: Appointments for the above approved with the following votes:

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Motion #3: Change to the MCEF Constitution:

The change will formalize the practice of having non-tenure-line faculty serve on the Main Campus Executive Faculty. The Senate’s approval is not technically required for this change, but the motion expresses the Senate’s endorsement of it.

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<th>Aye</th>
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The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

AR/WAD/jhg