MINUTES OF THE GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
Tuesday, December 12, 2017, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
Murray Room, 5th Floor Lauinger
(approved Jan. 18, 2018)

PRESENT: Biesenbach-Lucas, Bloch, Bode, Boettcher (zoom), Bronstein, Campolieto-Marhanka, A.Celenza, Cumby, Danielsen, Davis, Engler, Ernst, Gale, Glazer, Haddad, Healton, Huang, Iglarsh (zoom), Jensen (zoom), Johnson, Kamrad, Kern, Kertesz, Krim, LaRocque, Luta, Mastowfi, Nolan (zoom), Pfeiffer, Shaw, Shields, Weigert, Young.


The meeting was called to order by Wayne Davis at 4:04 p.m.

Minutes

Motion #1: Approval of the minutes of Nov. 13, 2017 carried with a vote of:

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Open Forum.

Wayne Davis reported to the Senate that the Faculty Senate Constitution has been approved by the faculty from the Main Campus.
Update on UCRT Membership

Since the Faculty Handbook specifies that the President appoints half the members of the UCRT and the Senate the other half, there is no provision for appointing just one more member of the committee even if there is a need. The Steering Committee proposed adding the following line to the Handbook: “Either the President or the Senate may appoint an additional member at the request of the other.” But a number of problems emerged. Ian Gale raised a fundamental question: How is the size of the UCRT determined? The Faculty Handbook does not say. Since Ian is chairing a Task Force doing a thorough review of our rank and tenure policies and practices, it was moved that his committee take up the issue and make recommendations.

Motion #2: The Senate asks the UCRT Task Force to review Section III.D.4 of the Faculty Handbook and recommend amendments. The motion carried:

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DREAM Act Resolution

Motion #3: Approval of the Dream Act Resolution, an updated version of the resolution proposed by the Steering Committee:

The Georgetown University Faculty Senate commends all the institutional support the University is providing to undocumented students, and supports President DeGioia’s call for passage of a long-term legislative fix to protect Dreamers.

The motion carried:

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Confidentiality Policy

The Senate discussed the revision of the Confidentiality Policy (dated 12-05-17) that incorporates changes called for at the 11-13-17 meeting to tighten up what is now section 3 and makes other clarifications. Discussion focused on the following provision:

3. Members of the faculty have a responsibility not to reveal to unauthorized parties any other University-related information they agree to receive with the explicit acknowledgement that it has been designated as confidential by the administrator who provides the information, unless otherwise required by law or University policy.

Questions were raised about what ‘explicit acknowledge’ meant. A motion was made to replace that with ‘understanding’ and approve the resulting revision.

Motion #4: Approval of an updated version of the Confidentiality Policy that “explicit acknowledgement” with “understanding” in section 3 of the draft dated 12-05-17. The motion carried:
The Senate addressed a problem that has emerged concerning how the following language in the current policy (approved in 2016) is to be interpreted and applied.

A retired faculty member or professional librarian may be awarded an emeritus title by the appropriate Executive Vice President. The emeritus title would consist of the retiree's pre-retirement title followed by the word 'Emeritus.' To be eligible for such a title, a retiree must satisfy the following criteria:

(a) The retiree must have served full time at Georgetown University, ordinarily for at least ten years.

The problem arises from the fact that 'retired' is nowhere defined in the Faculty Handbook. The practice has been to use the eligibility requirements for retiree benefits as the criterion. That currently requires being at least 55 years of age and at having at least 10 years of full-time service to Georgetown. The word ‘ordinarily’ in clause (a) above, however, allows that the benefits requirements need not be met for emeritus status. Without a clear rule, administrators are in an untenable position. The Steering Committee recommends tying eligibility for emeritus status to the age and length-of-service requirements for retirement benefits (whatever they might be).

In addition, the EVPs’ offices report that some faculty have requested the title ‘emerita’ rather than ‘emeritus.’ The revision dated 11-07-17 incorporates these changes, as well as clarifying and simplifying other parts of the policy. A motion was made to approve the 11-07-17 revision.

Motion #5: Approval of the proposed revision of the Emeritus Policy dated 11-07-17. The motion carried:

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The approved revisions of the Confidentiality and Emeritus policies will now be sent out to all faculty for review. The Senate will take them up again in January.

Motion #6 to adjourn the meeting carried:

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The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

George Luta
GL/jhg

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