

ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING May 18, 2012

In attendance: Christopher Hall, Brian Bowen, Albina Balidemaj, Shpend Ahmeti, Julia Norrgard, Edmond Muhaxheri, Besnik Bislimi, Shpend Bytyqi

I. Call to Order

JNorrgard called the meeting to order at 10:05.

II. Welcome/Rules for Guests

JNorrgard welcomed guests and senate members to the meeting. *JNorrgard* also went over rules for guests.

III. Prior Meeting Minutes (April 12, 2012)

BBowen Correction on the second page, second paragraph (change from Friday and Saturday to Saturday and Sunday). Correction on the third page, third paragraph from the bottom (omit or other colleges)

SBytyqi Correction on the last page, sixth paragraph (add “been” after “have”)

Motion set forth to accept the Minutes of the April 12, 2012 meeting by *SAhmeti*, seconded by *ABalidemaj* at 10:11.

Motion carried.

IV. Comments by President Hall – *CHall* deferred his statement.

V. Comments by Vice President, RIT Academic Affairs Bowen

BBowen had no general statement or comment to announce.

VI. Old Business

BBislimi asked about clarification for guest speakers in the Senate that are allowed to talk – Vice President *Ilbrahimi* last meeting.

JNorrgard stated that when there are cases out of the Senate member’s expertise, guest speakers that are professionals in that field are asked to talk – like *Ilbrahimi* last meeting.

National Holiday Observance – SAhmeti

SAhmeti went over the draft he wrote about Holidays: “At the end of each academic year, the Academic Senate shall approve the list of holidays for the following academic year, based on a proposal put forward by the office of the President. The list of holidays will respect but not be limited by the Law on Official Holidays in the Republic of Kosovo. Once approved, the list of holidays shall not be changed during the academic year for

which it was approved.”

BBislimi asked if policies can be changed after the Academic Senate approves.

JNorrgard stated that the policies can be changed depending on what situation arises, and that the next Academic Senate can change old policies.

Motion set forth by *EMuhaxheri* to accept *SAhmeti*'s proposal, seconded by *ABalidemaj*.

Motion carried.

AUK Syllabi Standard – *EMuhaxheri*

EMuhaxheri suggests that every faculty member should use the same Syllabus template he had given out.

SAhmeti asks if there should be a minimum requirement settled for the new Syllabus standard (“The course syllabus should include a minimum of Course Number, Course Description, Course Evaluation”)

Emuhaxheri states that beside the requirements, the font and structure should be consistent.

CHall suggests that the Learning Outcomes section of the syllabus is very important to remain in the syllabus.

EMuhaxheri proposes that from 1st of September of the 2012-2013 Academic Year all syllabi should have the similar structure as the template.

SAhmeti motions to approve *EMuhaxheri*'s proposal.

Motion carried.

VII. New Business

New status for the Academic Support Center (ASC) – *BBowen*

BBowen proposed that ASC should be an independent inter-disciplinary teaching unit at AUK.

EMuhaxheri asked if ASC is going to have its own unit head. BBowen confirmed that ASC will have its own unit head.

EMuhaxheri asked for the expected time of implementation. BBowen stated that it is expected to start the next academic year if resources available.

BBislimi asks if this will have any financial implications. Bowen stated that there are no financial implications.

EMuhaxheri asks for clarification about JKolgjini's and IAdemaj's role in the ASC – reluctance about their effectiveness due to work overload. BBowen stated that ASC unit head will get one equivalent section. CHall proposed to bring Janer Tower back and get her involved in the ASC when she is free. EMuhaxheri agreed.

BBislimi motioned for this proposal to be passed, ABalidemaj seconded.

Motion carried.

Need for counseling/intervention plan – *JNorrgard*

JNorrgard suggested that AUK should have a counseling/intervention plan regarding the last incident.

ABalidemaj agreed, however, stated that this issue is culturally sensitive. That is why AUK should not send mass e-mails and dwell on the incident – the student's privacy should be respected.

SAhmeti asked for further clarification for this "privacy" since it is obvious that her friends need to know about the student's health/condition, and have the need to talk about it since the student has been a part of AUK, and AUK has been a part of her life.

ABalidemaj further explained that it is fine to discuss about it in individual basis, just not to make events out of the incident.

CHall suggests that we should take the incident and put a positive approach around it rather than inflate emotions by dwelling on the incident; such as, fund raising about the student.

JNorrgard stated that turning this into an event would invade family's privacy.

SAhmeti suggested having a permanent solution to counseling cases – maybe outsourcing.

CHall stated that for these kinds of activities the resources available and the students' opinion should be known (student surveys on health needs)

JNorrsgard suggested that in similar cases, AUK should look out for symptoms and act ahead of time.

BBislimi recalls EMaloku's previous proposal for consulting cases, and asks if that is a good beginning point. ABalidemaj states that EMaloku's proposal is a good beginning point

EMuhaxheri proposes to insure students with Life Insurance for counseling – which would not cost more than 2 or 5 Euros per student.

CHall suggests that the issue should be looked at as a wider aspect of health care – on the context of overall healthcare.

Senate meetings between Spring and Fall quarters – *Jnorrsgard*

JNorrsgard proposed that it might not be necessary to have any more meetings until the Fall Quarter begins. SAhmeti suggested that a meeting should be held at least 2 weeks before the Fall Quarter begins

JNorrsgard states a meeting should be held just in case crucial issues arise.

VIII. Additional Business

BBislimi pointed out the need of an amendment which states the specific powers and functions of the senate.

IX. Call to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting by *BBislimi* at 10:45, *ABalidemaj* seconded

Motion carried.