

## **ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING November 11, 2011**

In attendance: Chris Hall, Brian Bowen, Julia Norrgard, Eranda Aliu, Richard Castleberry, Edmond Muhaxheri, Taulant Ramabaja

### **I. Call to order**

JNorrgard opened the meeting by welcoming guests and invited those present to stay for the discussion after the meeting. Due to printing problems,

CHall moved that approval of the last Senate meeting's minutes be deferred until the December 9 meeting. RCastleberry seconded.

Motions carried.

### **II. Comments by President Chris Hall**

CHall informed the Senate that he will be in Rochester and Washington during the Thanksgiving holiday. He said he was grateful to BBowen and others for the budget review. AUK is suffering from a decrease in subsidies from the government of Kosovo and USAID. This combined with the 8% inflation rate in Kosovo has made it impossible for AUK to continue charging flat tuition fees, as it has over the past 4 years. There will be a tuition increase in 2012-13.

A fundraising dinner will be held Dec 10 in the ballroom of the Emerald Hotel. So far €80,000 has been committed from external sources. The goal is €100,000. A limited number of seats for faculty and students will be made available.

Two new graduate programs will be announced in January: MBA and Master in Journalism and Communications.

CHall also noted that there is a need to establish a committee to start curriculum changes in light of the switch from a quarter system to semesters.

EMuhaxheri asked if the change of semester meant that classes would be combined. CHall replied that the sequencing of classes, other than general education, is likely to be directed by RIT. It might mean that there would be less space for remedial math and English classes, which would raise the entry requirements in these fields.

TRamabaja asked about the tuition increase. CHall replied that the tuition increase would hopefully only keep up with the inflation rate and not exceed it. The decision would be made at the November 19 board meeting.

### III. Comments by Vice President Brian Bowen

BBowen submitted the new classification of appointments and promotions. Of special note is the addition of the classification "Visiting faculty, Lecturer" which was specifically created to take visiting RIT lecturers into consideration. The inclusion of four full-time faculty classifications was designed to attract and maintain full-time faculty. Currently, the ratio of part-time to full-time staff members is 2:1.

EMuhaxheri asked about how it might be possible to go from one classification into another. BBowen responded that it would be based on qualifications.

RCastleberry moved to accept the new Faculty Appointment and Promotion plan. It was seconded by EAliu.

Motion carried.

### IV. Old Business

**Faculty Staff Fund.** The AUK Faculty Staff Fund committee has responded to an application for funds from a student in the amount of €800. There will be no public statement on this to avoid the Fund being flooded by requests.

**Cancellation of classes.** EMuhaxheri brought up the issue and its impact on students' ability to graduate on time. Some students have to come back in the spring quarter only for one class which had been cancelled in previous quarters.

TRamabaja noted that Student Government has been working with Albina Balidemaj on this issue. The problem arose from Juniors and Seniors who took all of their classes in one field at once, and Freshmen and Sophomores who took introductory courses such as Foundation students, who now have to graduate a year later.

CHall responded that AUK must be more honest about the fact that Foundation students are actually on a 4.5 year plan, and this presents particular problems for cadets who are under contract for only 4 years. Providing summer courses to make up for these classes is an expensive option. TRamabaja reiterated that the cadets have special needs, that they not only have a full-time job but also other classes at KSF and that tighter coordination between AUK and FSK is needed.

### V. New Business

**Student attendance at public forums:** The issue of student attendance at public forums was discussed, specifically the problem with students missing normal classes in favor of attending public speakers in order to get extra credit. CHall noted the value of the speakers who come to AUK, who are important to the school as a form of free advertising for recruiting and marketing. However, he questioned their value to the students. Often the speakers are politicians and diplomats who will get news coverage.

TRamabaja agreed that extra credit was not the way to go and that the students were tired of only having political speakers. He suggested the idea of having panels of speakers rather than single

speakers, which could be more representative of all of the units. Units could help student government organize the panels. Attendance of these panels could be 5% of the course grade and each Unit could provide a list of accepted activities.

JNorrgard suggested that a proposal for the Units be written up. CHall suggested that TRamabaja be invited to the Unit Heads meeting to discuss the idea. BBowen pointed out that a good range of events would be needed and that units would have to keep track of attendance.

**AUK Honors guidelines:** BBowen introduced discussion of a future AUK honors program which would not replace the Dean's Honors List. To qualify, students might be required to take extra courses, do a full-year Senior project, and achieve a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.75, which 10% of current AUK students would qualify for.

TRamabaja pointed out that the new grading policies and efforts to deflate grades would affect the number of students who would be eligible. CHall also mentioned that many of his best students struggled in their first year and suggested that the GPA requirements start at the Sophomore year. The AUK Honors list would also help students in their application to master programs. For the current year, a dinner Friday, March 30, 2012 is being planned to recognize the AUK Honors list consisting of those students with a 3.8 GPA.

**Diversity Week:** JNorrgard presented a resolution to commend those who put together the Diversity Week events. It was suggested that Student Government be added to the list of those thanked and that certificates be presented.

CHall moved to adopt the resolution. EMuhaxheri seconded.

Motion carried.

## **VI. End of Meeting**

CHall congratulated the members of the first Academic Senate.

EMuhaxheri motioned to adjourn. EAliu seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:01.