

AAAC Meeting Minutes for October 20, 2017

Present: Kevin Jiang (undergrad representative), Gaurav Desai, Chris Lu, Terri Conley, Ellen Wixted (grad representative), Ketra Armstrong, Enrico Landi, Cathy Sanok, Hsiao Hsin Sung Hsieh, Seth Quidachay-Swan, Pamela Davis-Keen, Neil Marsh (SACUA liaison), Kristin Klein, Lissa Patterson, Kentaro Toyama (chair and notetaker)

Absent: Kimberly Kearfott, Semyon Meerkov, Scott Piper

This was the first meeting of the academic year.

Round of member introductions. Most members of the committee are new to it as of this year. A handful were on the committee last year. Prof. Marsh has been on it for three years. All members either sought out or volunteered for this university-level committee. Most expressed an interest in understanding the inner workings of the university or of representing specific concerns.

Introduction to committee and its function:

- AAAC is concerned with a broad range of academic issues, but a key focus is to represent faculty concerns to the university administration.
- Example issues from last year:
 - Gender disparities in faculty compensation
 - Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) appeals process
 - Appropriate accommodations for student athletes by faculty
- A signature success of this committee in the past was the instating of an annual administration feedback process.

Meetings: We will meet about once a month for the rest of the academic year, unless issues arise that require more meetings. Everyone in the room was OK with Wednesdays 8-10am for Fall term. At our next meeting, we will try to find a good time for Winter term.

Overview of committee charge and relationship with SACUA: Prof. Marsh provided an overview of SACUA, the Faculty Senate, the Senate Assembly, and the role of the AAAC:

- AAAC is advisory to the Provost. The committee has no power to compel. It's worthwhile to establish a productive relationship with the Provost.
- The Provost oversees all academic and budget issues at the university.
- As a committee, we can...
 - Investigate or ask questions about any aspect of the university function;
 - Invite any administration officials to meetings;
 - Make recommendations;
 - Write relevant reports;
- The AAAC is known for producing good minutes, which is an important component of all SACUA committees.
- Some specific items on the charge from SACUA:
 - Ask about changes to federal research funding and university indirect costs structure.
 - Ask about, and possibly contribute to, university efforts for protecting university-affiliated non-US citizens' international travel, as well as degree of university support for non-US citizens, including DACA students.

- Further investigate and provide recommendations for an appeals process for OIE investigations;
- Determine university position on safety and speech;
- Determine university position on right to bear arms on campus.
- SACUA sought to minimize overlap in the charge with charges of other committees.

Next steps:

- Faculty Senate Office will work with Office of the Provost to identify potential meeting dates, and to follow-up if needed with a Doodle poll for the rest of the committee.
- Committee members will indicate interest in specific topics and raise additional issues for the committee. (Prof. Toyama will send out link to spreadsheet.)