ACADEMIC ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT
November 19, 2019
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
Trendle Hall, URC

CHAIR: Malika Kachani
VICE CHAIR:

SECRETARY: Alyssa Rodriguez

Topic	Proposed Discussion	Actions
1. Call to Order		
2. Approval of minutes of previous meeting 4-18-19		**Dr. Redding motioned to approve the minutes as written, Dr. Kandpal seconded, all were in favor of approving the minutes.**

3. Announcements	• **Vice Chair of the Academic Senate** – The Academic Senate needs a Vice Chair. There was no candidate from the Academic Senate. The faculty were asked to express their interest if they are interested.
	• **University Budget Advisory Committee (UBAC)** – The committee is looking for a member from the assembly. The Faculty were asked to let the Academic Senate know if they were interested in serving on this committee. The UBAC helps to establish guidelines for the budget process. It reviews budget priority requests from the various units across campus and provides a ranked priority list to the university president. It meets once a month for about 2 hours during the budgeting process (Oct-May). A lot of work is done independently reviewing all of the budget requests. There are also subcommittees that some members participate in.
	• **Human Resources** – After asking senators to collect questions from the colleges, the Academic Senate met with Human Resources. A few questions were asked and answered. This will be continued by email and the Academic Senate will get back to the assembly.
	• **Provost Request** -Recently the Provost came to the Senate with a few requests, the Academic Senate will follow up on these requests at a later date with an email that has more context.
	   o Establishing a Graduate College, not tied to any of the existing schools, as this is an important step towards a PhD program.
	   o Paying for clinical/volunteer faculty access to online library: re-evaluation of expense and reinvesting savings back into resources for full time faculty and students.
	   o Monitoring volunteer faculty contribution: should they stay on the rolls "forever", or have them request to stay on yearly, with a description of what they plan on contributing for the upcoming year.
	   o Views on developing online education and having a university policy versus individual guidelines.
	   o Tuition money used for holiday parties/celebrations	

4. Anonymous Feedback	The Senate has received a couple of anonymous feedbacks and they were presented to the Faculty.	

	• *Disappointing that the university hosts an innovation day and features the college deans and senior leaders and not the individual faculty and students who are the innovators behind the projects that I'm sure will be on display by administrators. This shows again how Nick Web is out of touch with the realities of academic life and the nature of innovation and research on our campus.* • *Some of the faculty in my college are concerned about nepotism pertaining to advanced interviewing, hiring and promotions of administrative, office, and laboratory assistants. This may be affecting the moral of unrelated staff members as well as restricting the pool of potential applicants for positions at the University. In turn, this can affect faculty members.*	
5. Research Conclave Follow-Up	The Academic Assembly discussed their thoughts and opinions about how the Research Conclave was conducted. Many faculty members voiced similar concerns and sentiments about needing improvements to the new protocols that were put in place without faculty feedback	
6. Shared Governance	From the WSCUC visit in 2017, it was mentioned that the university should - • continue to enhance and develop communication between all levels • continue to collaborate to strengthen initiatives and interactions Faculty should be involved in decisions that are made for the university, such as the hiring of Administrators or input when policies are changed on campus. Hiring an Ombudsman would help with shared governance on campus.	
7. Faculty Morale	Many faculty members expressed their concerns about extremely low faculty morale on campus. Many offered thoughts on how to improve it.	
8. Transparency	Transparency is the underlying issue for the topics of discussion today. It is hard to have an opinion or feel good about a decision being made without there being transparency with why those decisions are being made.	
9. Motion	The expression of a variety of concerns culminated into a motion that was voted on toward the end of the meeting. However, due to a procedural error, lack of time for proper discussion, and perhaps the loss of quorum at the time of voting, the motion needs to be reintroduced and discussed.	
Next Meeting	Next meeting date: April 23, 2020.	
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 1ppm.	