

Augsburg University Faculty Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at 3:40 p.m.
HC 150B, Augsburg University

Provost Karen Kaivola presided and called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m.

First Word

Michael Wentzel, Associate Professor of Chemistry, provided a first word.

Approval of Minutes

The Faculty Meeting minutes from 4/25/18 were approved.

Approval of Agenda

Provost Karen Kaivola lightly edited the agenda, moving the introduction of New Faculty to the beginning of her report, and added an additional announcement from Jenny Hanson, Director of Online and Blended Pedagogies.

A faculty member asked for information about an event that occurred in Memorial Hall over the summer, dealing with building security and possible overnight intruders. Provost Kaivola said that she does not have further information at this time, but will gather more information and share it with the Faculty.

The Agenda was approved.

Announcements

Writing Center - Jennifer Forsthoefel, Assistant Professor of English, Writing Center Director
Jennifer Forsthoefel spoke about the new tutors in the writing center, and urged Faculty to send students to the writing center. The Writing Center hours are 5:30-9 Sunday, and 2-9 Monday-Thursday, and there are plans to provide tutoring online soon. She also asked faculty to respond to a survey that was sent via email today.

AugSem - Rebekah Dupont, Director of First Year Experience

Rebekah Dupont thanked faculty who are teaching an AugSem this year. She said there was a 50% increase in AugSems this year due to the large incoming class. She also asked Faculty to begin thinking about whether they would like to teach an AugSem next Fall, and possible topics for those courses.

Jenny Hanson, Director of Online and Blended Pedagogies

Jenny Hanson recommended that Faculty reach out to their LFC's with any questions regarding using the Moodle gradebook, and for help in setting up the Moodle gradebook. She also noted that LFC's will be contacting all instructors of 100 level courses to ensure that their gradebooks are properly set up.

Provost's Report - Provost Karen Kaivola

Provost Kaivola announced the recipient of the Inaugural Sundquist Endowed Professorship of Business Administration: Business Department Chair Jeanne Boeh.

Provost Kaivola welcomed the PA Program Faculty “back to campus” as they have moved in to a new space in Cedar-Riverside. She also welcomed New Dean of Arts and Sciences Ryan Haaland. And new Student Success Librarian Caroline Wack. She also welcomed the new Full Time Faculty: Nimanthi Atukorala, computer science; Soebin Jang, management; Margit Berman, clinical psychology; Amy Larson, computer science; Jeff Brown, clinical psychology; Juyoung Lee, music therapy; Mark Carlson-Ghost, clinical psychology; Jason Tan, biochemistry; Moumita Dasgupta, physics; Jeff Walter, physics; Cory Erickson, marketing.

Provost Kaivola asked Faculty members to consider what they would like the Faculty Meetings to look like. She said that, in addition to the importance of the agenda, hearing a broad range of voices is important, and that she and Senate are open to hearing feedback about the meetings.

Provost Kaivola spoke about the HLC Response to our Assurance Argument. She said that one area which was “met with concern” was the assessment of general education. The reviewers called for a more robust assessment practice, to include mapping all courses that count toward general education to general education learning outcomes. She noted that we must draw student artifacts randomly from those courses, and then assess student learning, relative to the outcomes, based on those artifacts. She said that HLC also asked that we do more to articulate graduate level learning outcomes that align with Augsburg’s mission. She said that Augsburg must fully engage with assessment going forward: a report on our progress is due in Spring 2022, and in 2025 we will have our next comprehensive visit. Given that assessment has been called out repeatedly by the HLC reviewers, we can anticipate that assessment will be an area of close scrutiny in 2025

Provost Kaivola then spoke about general education. She spoke about her hope for a November vote on the proposal, but also the need to balance that hope with full consideration of the plan. She said that she will work with the Gen Ed team to bring forth a vote on a document that Faculty can feel has been fully considered. She noted the importance of a “clean” vote so that everyone, regardless of where they stand on general education redesign, believes the process was thorough.

Provost Kaivola spoke about the Faculty Handbook Revisions approved by the Faculty last year, and the work that is ongoing with handbook revisions. She noted that, after the Faculty vote in April, she reviewed the documents carefully and shared some concerns and questions with the co-chairs of PPC. She then forwarded her concerns plus the responses of PPC to legal counsel. Counsel completed its review in mid-August, and she then forwarded the documents

to a subcommittee of the Board of Regents that had been identified in July. She said that she recently met with that subcommittee. The subcommittee is fine with most of the proposed revisions, but feels that a few areas need further review.

Provost Kaivola then spoke about returning this year to the question of University structure. She spoke about creating structures that will serve the diverse and divergent parts of the academic program at Augsburg.

Provost Kaivola also spoke about the Academic Plan 2025. She said that the document is not meant to name everything that is important, but to leverage some of our key areas. She spoke about the plan emphasizing Signature Experiences, rather than Signature Programs. She said that she will be in conversation with the Senate in the coming days regarding the questions it might have. The Board Academic Affairs Committee will also have the opportunity to offer feedback.

Faculty Senate Report - Faculty Senate President Milda Hedblom

Faculty Senate President Milda Hedblom welcomed new full time and adjunct faculty.

Milda Hedblom spoke about the Faculty Senate meeting over the summer to discuss the new PsyD program, and that Senate did give the go ahead over the summer for the administration to continue their work on initiating the new program.

Milda Hedblom also gave a summary of the Senate retreat in the Fall, and the discussions with President Paul Pribbenow, Board of Regents Chair Matt Entenza, and VP of Institutional Advancement Heather Riddle. She also spoke about the discussions with Provost Kaivola, Dean Devers and Dean Haaland. More information can be found on the Faculty Senate Website.

Milda Hedblom also spoke about Senate discussions about General Education, and an emphasis on understanding the unintended consequences of the plan and how the plan might affect enrollment in various departments. There was also discussion at the retreat about the availability of resources for recruiting new faculty. There was also a desire from Senators for information about the deferred personnel list.

Milda Hedblom also spoke about the first Senate meeting of the academic year. At the meeting, there was discussion about the proposed new Academic Plan 2025, specifically one point in the plan which referred to a desire to have departments that contain at least 5 full time faculty. Senators wondered what the reasoning was for that point, and would continue discussions with the Provost.

Milda Hedblom spoke about the need for a new CTP member from the Humanities and Fine Arts division and a replacement Senator from the Humanities and Fine Arts Division.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Jacob Walter, Recorder