

Humanities and Natural Sciences College Assembly
September 18, 2014
12:30 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.
Bobet 332

MINUTES

Approved by October 23, 2014 Assembly

I. Call to Order

The assembly was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by Dean Calzada in Bobet Hall 332.

Attended: Adams, Allison, Altschul, Anderson, Berendzen, Biguenet, Brice, Butler, Cahill, Corbin, Doll, Dorn, Eklund, Eggers, Ewell, Fernandez, Gerlich, Goodine, Gossiaux, Hood, Kahn, Kelly, Kornovich, Keulman, Khan, Leland, Li, Lily, McHugh, Melancon, Moore, Mui, Murphy, Nystrom, Quesada, Rodriguez, Salmon (by proxy), Schaberg, Sebastian, Stephenson (by proxy), Thibodeaux, Thum, Tucci, Underwood, Vacek, Villarreal, Welsh, Wessinger, Yavneh and Zucker.

II. Invocation

The invocation was given by Father Gerlich.

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of August 21, 2014 were approved with two changes and five abstentions. September 2, 2014 minutes were approved with one change with six abstentions. Maria requested Old Business be postponed until October's meeting. There were no objections.

IV. Announcements

1. College Restructuring

Option 1 was passed by the University Senate which returns selected departments in the College of Social Sciences to HNS. Connie Rodriguez reported the provost is forming an Ad Hoc Advisory Committee to help him determine some details in the structure. She asked Assembly members to please say yes, if asked to be a part of this committee. The provost would like to be done by December and to start implementing changes in the spring.

2. Loyola University Collaborative Scholarship (LUCS) Proposals

Maria announced the proposal deadline is October 6.

3. The Present has Failed: Will the Global South Open a New Road?

Sanjog Rupakheti announced Vijay Prashad, Ph.D., historian and journalist from Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, will speak on September 29 at 7pm in Miller Hall, Room 114.

V. Reports

1. Enrollment Update from Roberta Kaskel

Roberta reported the statistics as of September 15th totaled 623 first-time incoming, 103 transfer

and 29 readmit students entering the university. Student SAT scores are up 2 points. Susan Oakes was hired as Director of Admissions (she comes from a similar position at the College of Charleston) and Molly Robinson was hired as Director of Operations (she comes from a similar position at New College of Florida). Both will be part of the Senior Enrollment Management Team. Both were first choice candidates by search committee and staff. They will be attending campus meetings in October to introduce themselves. Roberta reiterated the drop of enrollment was a result of miscalculation on how to award financial aid and that now we have to work our way back from that. She also said the fixes are not quick fixes, such as the question of the condition of the residence halls. Loyola can't fix it all by adjusting financial aid. Mark Fernandez asked if Roberta wants faculty help. Roberta said yes, thanking the Assembly for making themselves available to see new students and turning out for events. She plans on bringing more events to campus. Faculty suggestions included: the use of skyping, utilizing faculty who attended local high schools, assistance in tracking graduates. Roberta said Brad Petitfils collects post-graduation plans from students in the exit questionnaire and the career center follows up on filling in the gaps of incomplete questionnaires, but tracking graduates continues to be frustrating. She reported all newly hired Admissions' territory managers are recent alums, so although an 80% staff turnover will present challenges, she hopes many new ideas will emerge. On March 22, 2015 Loyola will host the district rally of high school academic competition which will be a good opportunity to recruit the 9th – 12th graders who attend. She will put out a call for volunteer proctors. She asked members of the Assembly to call her with ideas on ambassadors, recruitment, etc.

2. CFI Center for Faculty Innovation from Melanie McKay.

Without additional funds, CFI is forced to assist faculty in low-cost ways, but Melanie McKay announced Chris Schaberg will join her in January to develop new programming on research, publication, pedagogy, etc. She also reported on her efforts to advocate for more effective faculty interface with Heidi Davis (Grants and Sponsored Programs) and Lisa Watson in (IA) in seeking external funding. She said they have promised to send out more timely announcements of deadlines and a quarterly newsletter. Currently faculty can meet with them for customized grant opportunities. She said the Loyola campaign is another source of funding. IA will create any fund we want to create as long as there's money to go into it. Naomi Yavneh suggested it would be helpful if Lisa and Heidi create a document explaining the process and post it online. Justin brought up the problem of too much overhead being required by Loyola. Maria said overhead can be waived with permission, but this has to be requested in advance.

3. University Strategic Plan Update from John Sebastian

John Sebastian reported that after the last Assembly meeting provost Manganaro realized faculty support needed to be addressed by the Strategic Planning Team (SPT). He asked John to talk further to concerned faculty. Several members quickly cobbled together a proposal for additional action items, which evolved into additions within the larger document supporting the draft strategic plan (new action items take too much time to develop). (See Attachment 1.) He suggested these items can be added to the HNS strategic plan as well. John said the university strategic plan is really an enrollment plan. Mark Fernandez said strategic plans drive the university and shouldn't be an enrollment

plan, adding it is very disappointing that teaching and academics are not #1. Barbara Ewell said HNS has been student centered and she finds it offensive this is presented as a new idea. Chris Schaberg took issue with the wording: to create a learning centered community. He asked, what is the sense of what we have now if it's not learning centered? John said he thought the SPT is trying to announce to the world Loyola is keeping up with changes in higher education by moving away from things that haven't always been student centered. Melanie McKay said she'd urged the SPT to use "academic" rather than "learning community" and "maintain" rather than "create" in their wording. Comments of support for the word "maintain" followed and John said he felt the word change would be acceptable. John Aschutl said there should be more places to insert faculty in the strategic plan since they'll be the ones "creating" a learning-centered community. He added the central complaint was lack of money for faculty research and scholarship. John Sebastian said the strategic plan is also an attempt to shift away from 2012's recruit, retain and reputation theme. He said Marc Manganaro is committed to finding money within the University budget to reallocate and fund the strategic plan.

VI. Move to adjourn

A motion was made and seconded.

Attachment 1

University Strategic Plan Excerpts (representing faculty concerns)

Some of these excerpts represent entirely new language, some are expansions or revisions of language that had been part of earlier drafts:

In order to ensure that our over-arching strategies succeed, it is imperative that the University recruit and retain high-quality faculty by enhancing support for faculty development in teaching, scholarship and creative work. We also realize that the kinds of activities outlined in this plan often form a distinctly secondary part of faculty evaluation. Experiential learning, developmental and discerning advising, community engagement, formation for mission, and other activities with or on behalf of our students are not discouraged, but because they are not generally rewarded they tend to be engaged in by a relatively small percentage of the faculty. They must be embraced by all if this plan is to succeed, and so a recalibration of faculty evaluation processes will be needed.

The Mission is the cornerstone of our university. We are and will remain an academic community fully committed to the pursuit of truth, wisdom and virtue; diversity in our student body, faculty, and staff; excellence in teaching, scholarship, creative work, and service; the education of the whole student; and providing benefit to the larger community. This Strategic Plan will focus on particular aspects of our larger mission that we feel are best positioned to guide the transformation of Loyola to better meet the needs of our various stakeholders.

One of Loyola's great strengths is the diversity of its student body, and Loyola consistently has been recognized as one of the most diverse campuses in the nation. The University should be attentive to recruiting and retaining diverse faculty and staff as well as a diverse student body, and should ensure that it is providing advocacy for all members of the Loyola community and programming on issues of diversity.

The success of our students depends upon the quality and commitment of the faculty and staff who guide them in this educational endeavor. It is therefore essential that Loyola continue to recruit and retain high quality faculty and staff by increasing support for their development in areas where we can best serve our students.