Order of Business – Faculty Senate

November 8th, 2012 – Room 400ABC TUC

Chair Miller appointed Rina Williams as Secretary.

1) Call to Order
   The meeting was called to order by Chair Miller.

2) Approval of the Minutes of the October 11th meeting
   Minutes were approved unanimously.

3) Report of the Faculty Chair

Chair Miller noted that Pres. Ono will attend the meeting later.

The Provostal search committee is to include 6 elected members, of which 3 are to be elected by the Faculty Senate; we will elect our representatives later today. Dean Peter Lundgren (of CCM) has been appointed as chair of the search committee. It will be a national search; the committee will determine whether to use a search firm. President Ono would like a Provost in place in time for the next academic year.

OBR Faculty Credentials Committee. Their work is aimed at high schools and colleges, but seems to be aimed mostly at online institutions. They are unlikely to affect UC faculty, as our accreditation usually exceeds their requirements. Chair Miller can make the material available if anyone wants to see it. He will keep the committee apprised as info comes back from Columbus.

UC’s $5 million investment in Cintrifuse was vetted. The money came from endowment/investment funds, not operating budgets. $5 million was invested now, with $5 million proposed to be invested later.

The new director of UCForward has been hired: Dr. Diane Cline. She was hired under Pres. Williams’ administration. Faculty Senate has sought to understand why more administrators are being hired as college budgets are being cut.

Compliance: UC has hired a consultant using $200,000 from UC2019 funds to assess “enterprise risk.” Last year non-compliance cost the University approximately $9 million. Chair Miller cautioned faculty with research contracts to be aware of things like “export control”: read contracts carefully for this language. Chair Miller has asked the Research & Scholarship committee to work with compliance to put together training for faculty on these issues, which can affect faculty even not actively engaged in funded research.

Integrated Decision Making has been finalized and can be viewed and submissions made online.

The Academic Affairs Committee’s work on academic integrity is moving forward. A sub-committee will look at how to implement recommendations from the report.
Committee on Presidential Awards for Adjunct Faculty. Chair Miller appointed two Faculty Senate members to the Committee.

The Battle of the Bat was a big success. Faculty lost to undergrads in 12 innings, but great fun was had by all. Some faculty wanted to participate who didn’t get to; we are now proposing double-header basketball: faculty, administration, grads, undergraduates. We will charge admission and proceeds will go to Mitch’s Mission (athletics charity).

Presidential debate watches coordinated by Department of Political Science head Rich Harknett. The events were hugely successful. Events were coordinated for the second and third debates, both with national news coverage. Harknett is also planning an election watch on 11/6. For the last two events, students effectively used social media to boost attendance.

4) Committee Reports

Committee reports were submitted:

a. Committee on Committees

(i) Motion to split 3 representatives between east, west, and branch campuses—one representative from each. Each campus to include Library rep’s from that campus.

Discussion:

Regional campuses include Blue Ash and Clermont. What about Clermont that has UC East campus: where do they count? There were no nominees from that campus. Library senators agreed each should be w/its campus. Are there other mechanisms for broad representation, via the President? “Balance” for Presidential appointees is for parts of campus not otherwise represented, or affirmative action—but such appointees are there for other reasons of balance, not campus balance. Should we change rules after the call for nominations already went out? Had campuses known this, maybe more would have nominated? Chair Miller had notified faculty of this motion BEFORE nominations closed, by one day.

The motion passed unanimously.

(ii) Move that election shall be by plurality. No discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

(iii) Move that faculty election to Calendars & Examinations Committee shall be by plurality. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Statements of interest. Nominations accepted till Tuesday @ 5:00 pm. Opened floor for any additional nominations for east campus, west campus, regional campuses. Motion to close nominations, seconded.

b. Governance
i. Discussion of proposed bylaws changes

Proposed change: University rule 53-02, Article 3, Section 3—to insert a statement that elections are by plurality. In the absence of any other language, the rule defaults to Robert’s Rules which call for election by majority. Brought by Governance Committee; the change must pass by full faculty on Dec 6, then goes to Board. Seek to get it done before spring elections.

Clarification of terms: majority = 50% + 1. Plurality just means most number of votes. Majorities are getting almost impossible to attain by electronic ballot. All other elections are by plurality.

c. Nominating Committee

1st year Senators (1st year of term) are on nominating committee. Appointment of the Committee: Slate confirmed in April. Chair of the committee will be appointed by Chair Miller; he asked for volunteers. To be appointed at first meeting in January.

5) Report of the President of the AAUP (Loving)

Bargaining teams will be chosen in December, ready to go by January. Still processing results of merit survey—good representation across colleges. There is universal concern about low staffing levels. Slight increase in those with concerns about merit process, but overall general satisfaction. Faculty preferred faculty- to dean-generated criteria. Criteria were rather inconsistent across colleges—some were really tough, others were very easy. There is minimal faculty discussion time about merit before the next bargaining round. 90% of respondents said their departments have not discussed at all on changing criteria for next round—departments may wish to start discussions in spring, to avoid scrambling. UC chapter/Loving featured in Nov-Dec issue of Academe.

Pharmacy concern: 4th year experiential training year. Pharmacy partners are concerned that unions are going to mandate mail-order prescription programs—thus taking the UC community out of their pharmacies. Loving: we have not discussed this, but the union wouldn’t support it. Important piece of information to have.

6) Report of the President of the Graduate Student Governance Association (Sarah Hutchings)

This month—national conference for NAGPS. Pres & VP attended this year. We received 2012 Midwest Region member of the year. Elected new members of Midwest Region. Hutchings elected to the section; key issue will be sequestration.

Community events—Halloween party (400 people). Huge international student turnout especially. GSGA soccer tournament—10/20, 16 teams. Chemical Engg won the cup!

Graduate housing, discussion w/President Ono, presented to President’s Cabinet. They have scheduled meetings with the Provost and Dean of the Graduate
School. The response from the administration has been largely positive. Key questions: will it be a good investment if UC builds? Who will occupy it, and how much will they pay? Are there off-campus options? Chair Miller suggested the GSGA might also consider the argument that partner universities, especially overseas ones, won’t send their students without a known place for them to live. GSGA is still seeking space on campus—a studying nexus + social space for graduate students. It’s currently very hard to schedule space on campus.

7) Report of the President of Student Government Association (Hart)

Lane not able to be present; short break till Santa/Larry arrive. Reminder All-University Faculty Meeting is on Thursday 12/6. University Service Award: send nominations to Human Services Committee.

8) Old Business

None.

9) New Business

None.

10) Report of the President of the University (Santa Ono)

Pres. Ono arrived. Formally named 28th President (after serving in an interim capacity for about 2 months). President Ono stated he was honored to join the Faculty Senate in this official capacity for first time.

Gov. Kasich is seeking two basic changes: (a) he wants universities to be economic engines, engaged in technology transfer, commercialization, etc.; and (b) he is deemphasizing enrollment while emphasizing completion-based approaches. Pres. Ono will circulate Ohio Completion Task Force Report confidentially to the Faculty Senate.

Budgetary issues: what will we get from state of OH? UC comes out well in all scenarios. Last time we got the most money of 14 univ’s in OH (only OSU, UC, and Wright State saw an increase in state funds. Credit for out of state graduate students, at-risk factors (UC has an access mission), research production. The other 11 universities lost money. UC is in a relatively good position. We get about 17% of our budget from state, in the range of $171 million. Some political leaders have proposed the idea of collapsing the regional campus budgets into ours. Pres. Ono doesn’t expect any decrease; the budget is biennial, so UC should be in good shape for a couple of years.

Pres. Ono has asked Bill Ball to generate a university-wide research plan, identifying centers of excellence for faculty to come together on research opportunities.

Economics of the University: the UC Foundation Board of Trustees, Alumni Association, and the University Board of Trustees need to align, build trust, get the
relationships right. We will look at missions, funding for each body, who reports to whom. The goal should be to align disparate activities to expand philanthropic giving to UC in case state funding does go down. President Ono is leading this effort directly and should be able to report back at the next meeting of the Faculty Senate.

President’s website: the Integrated Decision Making portal is live and has been streamlined, for example for submitting grants through the Office of Sponsored Research. All significant decisions are transparent: each request gets a number, is sent to committee, and can be tracked. The time clock is limited for decision to be made.

Research funding at the University has been relatively stable at about $400 million. State support of instruction has been stable or might go up. University-wide analysis: entire academic enterprise overall is a little in the black.

Question regarding new funding formulas—collapsing regional campuses into our budget. Pres. Ono doesn’t favor this. Gee Commission: group of University presidents. Actually OSU isn’t getting more funds. There are very different student profiles at each campus (Clifton, BA, Clermont). Does UC benefit from collapsing? Across nine permutations, sometimes UC benefits, sometimes not. Is it better to keep regionals as colleges or change them to campuses? There is some redundancy in services across campuses—do we need multiple IT offices? HR offices? Regional campuses are concerned that they will get decreased services if everything is centralized.

Question on the econ viability of athletics, new athletic director? Football and basketball are revenue-generating sports. Of the major US universities, only 3 are top 25 in football, basketball, and research, while only 6 are top 25 in football and basketball. UC is subsidizing athletics here (not like OSU). Do we need to look at alterations to the stadiums—such as adding luxury boxes? We need to do a careful business analysis. Discussions are ongoing and they will come to the faculty before decisions. Pres. Ono doesn’t want to invest in athletics unless they pay for themselves and more. Athletics does provide visibility and appeal to potential students.

Question on enrollment vs. the completion-based model. Where is the discussion, key ideas? There is a robust database for all Ohio with a 2-year rolling avg. It includes data for risk factors to completion. The goal is not to penalize universities committed to access mission for students of different means.

UC was told by rating agencies and by faculty, concerned about the large # of interim appointments. Pres. Ono will assess each opening that isn’t bound by Board rules; for those doing well, he may make them permanent.

A concern was raised that not enough women were being appointed to top administrative positions. Pres. Ono will consider diversity in appointments. He had a good track record on this as Provost, and he will continue it as President. The
Director of HR and the Director of WGSS were appointed to the President's board to increase gender diversity.

11) Information Session with the Provost (Larry Johnson)

Provost Johnson presented information on committees to the Board of Trustees. Committees were approved by Pres. Ono and vetted for diversity. Provost Johnson may want to tweak them a bit before finalizing. He will make sure the Faculty Senate is represented. Committees may not be paneled till after holidays.

The college 5-year enrollment plans went in to Provost Johnson; these don’t look very realistic right now. By 9/5 each college had to project what they’ll do by end of academic year. Provost Johnson’s projections show a $3-$6 million shortfall. Only half the colleges have resources to handle their 5-year projections. Kristi Nelson and others will hold hearings with each college. Provost Johnson would ask each college to reexamine their 5-year enrollment plan and revise each year. Committees on e-learning, coop, international education and diversity will interface with the 5-year plans too. We are trying to be more scientific and data-based.

Provost Johnson has bridge funds to get colleges through that need it. A&S has a huge hole to cover, starting with them immediately; other colleges will wait till spring to begin working with them. Most deans expect spring enrollments will be better, so may need less help. Provost Johnson will try to get projections out to deans before January. The budgeting system was meant to allow for mid-course corrections.

A concern was raised about the insufficient # of faculty, especially with semester conversion. There is a sense of constant uncertainty and confusion. Are our faculty numbers actually getting lower? We would have to check the data. The budget is accurate as a projection of where we are. Are the projections too conservative? Only Pharmacy, College of Business, and CECH will be profitable, in the projected amount of about $1½ - $2 million. The current threshold is 7%; next year it should be less than this but greater than zero. The President’s view is that we should not put too much into new initiatives until the basics are shored up; yet we can’t totally ignore new initiatives or we’ll stagnate.

Adjourned 5:03 pm.