

*Minutes
Faculty Senate Meeting
March 1, 2023*

The complete Recording for this meeting can be found at:

<https://myau.american.edu/groups/Committee/fs/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

Present: Professors: Lilian Baeza-Mendoza, Thomas Merrill, Garret Martin, Maria Gomez, Mauro Tiso, Dan Abraham, Laura Beers, Yijiang Zhao, Steve Silvia, Randall Blair, Mirjana Morosini, Alan Levine, Nikhat Ghouse, Ken Anderson, Shawn Bates, Jim Quirk, Katie Holton, Bryan Fantie, Kelly Joyner, Jennifer Axe, Rhonda Zaharna, Dario Bernardini, Jennifer Poole, Alan Isaac, William Ryan, Mieke Meurs, Robert Kelley, Jennifer Steele, Provost Peter Starr, Dean of Faculty, Monica Jackson

Chair's Report—Lilian Baeza-Mendoza

The chair of the Faculty Senate, Lilian Baeza-Mendoza opened the meeting promptly. She made several announcements as part of her Chair's Report:

- The February 1, 2023, senate meeting minutes were **VOTED** on 20-0-2 in favor.
- The senate will continue meeting in the hybrid modality. Comments and suggestions about the modality are welcome.
- The efforts of the senate leadership to reach out to faculty continue, including by holding office hours, meeting one on one, and meeting with the chairs of senate committees.
- The Working Group on Faculty Engagement is continuing its work by holding open forums in schools and units. The chairs of the working group are Bev Peters (OGPS) and John Heywood (WCL). They welcome feedback and comments from members of the community.
- The Working Group on Service is continuing its work. Garret Martin reminded community members that a survey about service has been sent to all members of the community and encouraged all to complete the survey.
- The senate leadership is still seeking nominees to be the next Vice-Chair of the Senate. This should be a term faculty member.
- The executive committee of the senate passed a resolution honoring Fanta Aw, who was present. Garret Martin and Tom Merrill read the resolution to Fanta, who was present, and Lilian Baeza-Mendoza presented her with flowers as a gift from the senate.

Provost's Report—Peter Starr

Provost Starr made several announcements as part of his Provost's Report:

- The university is aiming for a higher target of new students for the fall, both on the undergraduate and graduate side.
- The university is looking at a modest shortfall in the university's revenue this year because of our retention problems.

- The university has a new VP of Student Thriving and Retention, Ashlie Prioleau.
- A key to meeting our retention problems is by articulating our value proposition. The university is working on experiential learning and academic pathways, student fit to the campus, and financial aid.
- The search for replacements for Jessica Waters and Fanta Aw is proceeding.
- Provost Starr supports an independent Vice-Provost for Enrollment position.
- There is a new document outlining the review procedures for deans, the provost, and similar roles. This document will be posted on the website soon.
- The university will be naming two new distinguished professors next month.

Action Item: Continuing Appointment Faculty Manual Changes—Monica Jackson, Peter Starr and Rob Kelley

The proposal about the Continuing Appointment has been discussed previously in the senate and in unit-level forums. The senate was asked to vote on the proposed changes to the faculty manual at this meeting. Deputy Provost Monica Jackson began the discussion with a PowerPoint presentation outlining the important differences between the current term faculty arrangements and the proposed Continuing Appointment category. The most recent version of the proposal can be found in the email from the senate to the community with the materials for this meeting.

Discussion of the proposal was robust. Garret Martin proposed a friendly amendment clarifying proposed language for that continuing appointment faculty will be prioritized over term faculty in cases of budgetary limitations. The friendly amendment was accepted.

The senate **VOTED** and approved 22-0-2 in favor.

Action Item: University Library Senate Bylaw Changes—Melissa Becher and Gwendolyn Reece

The senate discussed a proposal to change the faculty manual sections on university library faculty regarding the Committee on Faculty Grievance and the Faculty Hearing Committee. The proposal will allow university continuing appointment faculty to serve on these two committees.

The senate **VOTED** and approved 21-1-1 in favor.

For the Good of the Order—Lilian Baeza-Mendoza

Brad Knight of the AU Core announced the “Stories to Remember” project of the Core is seeking faculty volunteers for short videos.