

CAS Faculty Senate Meeting – Minutes

March 21, 2016

a. Senators Present

Aryana Alborzi, Andrea Barrier, William Boyer, Martha Carper, Leslie Criston, Richard Cunningham, Ted Davis, Deni Galileo, Mark Greene, Eynat Gutman, Adele Hayes, Arild Hestvik, Stuart Kaufman, Yuk Leung, Rudi Matthee, Mark Miller, Phillip Mink, John Morgan, James Morrison, Jennifer Nauen, Chad Nicholson, Sandeep Patel, Yasser Payne, Karen Rosenberg, Blake Smith, Lance Winn

b. Senators Absent

Jocelyn Alcantara-Garcia, Michael Cotsell, Alan Fox, Maria Johnson, Jenny Lambe, Barbara Ley, Tony Seraphim, Mary Margaret Werth.

Meeting called to order by President Phillip Mink at 4:02 pm.

Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

We wish to add a presentation by John Morgan, COCAN Chair, to the published agenda.

Adopted as amended.

2. Approval of minutes from meeting of February 15, 2016

Deni Galileo: The published minutes have been augmented with a verbatim transcript of the Provost's remarks and the ensuing questions and answers.

Approved unopposed.

3. Educational Affairs Committee

A. APA_MATH_Revise_PhD_AppliedMath_rev3.10.16

B. APA_MATH_Revise_PhD_Mathematics_rev3.10.16

Yuk Leung: The proposals streamline procedures for PhD students.

Approved unopposed.

4. Presentation by John Morgan, COCAN Chair

John Morgan: There are two elected offices, President Elect and COCAN Chair. Other positions are appointed. Most current committee members have indicated their willingness to continue their service, but a few positions need to be filled. We still need a couple of people for the crucial Ed Affairs committee and four on the critically important P&T committee, on which we really need a range of different portfolios represented. I've received three volunteers so far, but all of them are from the same portfolio, and two of them are from the same department, so they can fill only two of the 4 vacancies, leaving two more vacancies to be filled.

Stuart Kaufman: From which portfolio were the three volunteers?

John Morgan: Social Sciences.

Phillip Mink: Please report these needs back to your departments.

5. College of Arts & Sciences By-Laws

Phillip Mink: We have been working on this for a while and the By-laws Committee has been discussing issues raised by Dean George Watson. I will give an overview of the main issues for future CAS Senate discussion.

- There was some resistance to George's suggestion of term limits for senators because some small departments and programs may struggle to find new senators.
- The By-laws Committee drew a bright line preventing administrators from being senators. George suggested that the scope of the exclusion was unclear and might end up excluding good people because of minimal administrative roles – e.g. 25% of workload.
Deni Galileo: I have reached out to HR for clarification on what language stipulating “at or above the level of Department Chair” would include.
John Morgan: I think similar language is in the current by-laws, so this is not an innovation.
Phillip Mink: This is something we may wish to clarify.
- George suggested language to the effect that “ballots *shall* have at least two candidates for each elected position.” The by-laws committee suggested “*should*” rather than “*shall*” because we often cannot find more than one candidate.

Jim Morrison: What happens when we do violate the by-laws in this way?

Phillip Mink: There is no mechanism to address it.

Mark Greene: What would different platforms for contested positions look like?

Phillip Mink: If we want a robust body, we should be presented with a range of agendas for the CAS Senate to focus on.

Adele Hayes: We need to address the issue of why people are so reluctant to serve.

Stuart Kaufman: We need to ask the question, “Why are we here?” The by-laws should reflect that purpose and be workable. Senators may get the impression that we haven't done much: the biggest item has been Ed Affairs stuff that seems to be either rubber stamping work the Ed Affairs Committee has done, or micromanaging departments. The current by-laws allow us to raise pretty much anything. There are initiatives from the Dean's Office that we could be helping to refine and implement.

So let's think about how we could be more useful. If we did more important business, perhaps people would be more interested and involved.

Perhaps two year Presidential terms would generate more momentum. [President Mink's expression changed to something distinctly other than enthusiasm at this point.] Political scientists are pretty much unanimous in saying “no” to term limits in the context of the US Congress. Political scientists favor contested elections but we can only ask COCAN to do its best. We don't want people running just to satisfy the by-laws.

One last thought is that we might consider having a representative of the Provost's Office in the CAS Senate.

Phillip Mink: Both Past President Alan Fox and I faced the problem of getting people engaged. Are you willing to chair a committee to think through these issues?

Stuart Kaufman/Phillip Mink: We'll be in touch.

John Morgan: Under Robert's Rules of Order, the Presiding Officer is not supposed to participate in debate. It is, therefore, rather paradoxical to want a President with a platform. We need a President Elect who will put in the time into setting the agendas and running the meeting. What matters is relevant experience.

George Watson: These are issues I thought it worth bringing before the full CAS Senate. I want my decisions to be informed the debate in full Senate. I do have approval authority for revisions to CAS Senate by-laws, before sending them on to the Provost and the Faculty Senate.

Stuart Kaufman: What is the basis for the claim that the Dean has approval authority over CAS Senate by-laws?

George Watson: Article three of the University constitution for the Board of Trustees. I approach this as a shared governance issue. The CAS Senate by-laws are de facto College by-laws and that approval authority does reside with the Dean.

John Morgan: If we do have contested elections with three or more candidates, we will need to decide on the election method. I suggest the University Senate method of a run-off election if there is no candidate with an overall majority after the first round.

Phillip Mink: This discussion will continue in April.

6. Old Business

None.

7. Introduction of New Business

None.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 4:37 pm.