

Senate Summer Advisory Committee Report 2016

Meeting 1 (23-Jun):

In this meeting, (our longest and most packed meeting of the summer) the following was covered:

1. The dates for the soft and grand opening of the new academic learning commons. Also, we were told no one was sure yet when faculty could tour it.
2. We were told it was not fully known how Blackwell and other vacated spaces would be used, but that part of Blackwell would be, perhaps temporarily, part of a new “Advising Center.”
3. We were told the following advising changes would be taking place (decisions already made by execs):

Freshman will not be assigned to faculty but one of the advisors housed in the advising center (4 ASCs, 1 Undecided advisor and 4 new members of the advising staff)

Eventually sophomores (likely AY 17-18) will not be assigned to faculty either. Faculty will advise juniors and seniors. Faculty will also have opportunity to have contact with interested freshman and sophomores.

Advisors will report to Melissa Boog.

Sometime in the next few years when SU is granted a staff PIN, a director of advising will be hired.

4. A request from student affairs was received to discuss standardizing bereavement policy and/or procedure.

5. Merit and equity pay were discussed. We learned that:

Merit pay increase of 2.5% will begin in mid-August for faculty.

Equity study committee is meeting in the next few weeks to discuss strategies for dealing with salary compression.

Equity measures will be implemented if funds permit.

6. Summer and J-Term Salary being studied and reevaluated.

7. We learned a System Faculty Workload Committee had been empaneled:

Provost Allen a member

Looking to refine and expand how faculty workload is measured for each system institution, not just credit hours taught.

8. USM also empaneled a diversity committee:

Diane Allen and Humberto Aristizabal are members.

Looking at possibility of Post Docs at SU to entice diverse faculty.

9. We discussed the Chik-Fil-A fiasco:

Chik-Fil-A coming to campus via unilateral decision.

Many members voiced concerns about this situation and what it means for SU.

Special meeting called.

Special Meeting (8-Jul):

Special meeting called to discuss Chik-Fil-A. Members of SSAC, Exec Committee, Staff Senate, LGBTQ Groups and Student Body present.

Highlights:

The meeting began with an exploration of how something this badly handled happened. The “evidence” used to make the decision was shown to be faulty by Randall Cone and Jill Caviglia-Harris. We learned there was no way to back out of the contract with CFA. SU obtained a statement in-line with University diversity values from CFA. Many questioned if that had any real meaning. Attendees suggested inclusive soft opening with LGBTQ groups present. We also discussed using profits to promote diversity and to help bolster campus diversity measures. While this was obviously damage control, some constructive ideas arose from the meeting.

Meeting 2 (27-Jul):

Brief meeting about the goals of the aforementioned faculty workload study. This study is meant to help capture and codify the kinds of work that help make us successful, such as mentoring. It is very important chairs and faculty provide input when solicited and report information accurately when asked for it. Some of the workload measurement changes may take legislation at the state level, so solid data is paramount. Discussed new documentary *Feed the Beast* about how some states are trying to eliminate the tenure system. Discussed diversity measures moving forward and more diversity town hall including students, faculty, chairs and administrators.

Meeting 3 (11-Aug):

Brief meeting in which we learned the new Associate Provost will lead roll the out of a new EAB platform for chairs, the gen ed articulation agreement, digital measures implementation, a future office of innovation, and have some hand in the writing center (unsure what this means). We learned we would have a historically large freshman class, with over 1000 new students arriving at SU by 8/28. We learned 9/23 would be Research Day and Innovation Showcase on the 4th floor of the new academic learning commons. We also learned that EAB will allow faculty to reach freshman regardless of new advising system. We also learned Melissa Boog will be visiting senate during 9/6 meeting to discuss new advising center.