



**Shared Governance Council (SGC)**  
**September 27, 2023, at 12:15 pm (College Hour)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Attending:** President John B. Cook (Ex Officio); Vice President Andrea Nathanson (Cabinet), Vice President Darcey Kemp (Cabinet), Vice President Mary Kaselouskas (Cabinet), Vice President Chris Thuot (Cabinet), Assistant Vice President Gladys Franco (Cabinet), David Panchenko (President, Student Government Association), Professor Christina Atwater (AUC Faculty Co-Chair), Amanda Dufault (AUC Interim Staff Co-Chair), Kim Noel (AFSCME Leadership), Professor Linda Prystupa (MCCC/ PA President); Nanette Flores (Executive Assistant to the President; minutes)

**Unable to attend:** Vice President Lillian Ortiz (Cabinet)

- i. **Introductions:** Including newly elected SGA President, David Panchenko (Dental Hygiene student)
- ii. **Review Minutes from April SGC Meeting:** No requested revisions; no comments; will be archived on the Shared Governance webpage.
- iii. **Review/Discussion of Outstanding Recommendations**
  - a. Withdrawal Policy (FY23-04) (Tabled last semester)

VP of Academic Affairs, Dr. Chris Thuot provided a brief overview including how historically the withdrawal process is initiated by faculty. It was found that the process of withdrawing students, with the belief that this is “better” than a failing grade, impacts underrepresented students at a higher rate. Some of the conversation was around the potential policy revision, and what was clear by way of faculty participation in the All-Unit Congress committee review. Chris Atwater shared that the AUC Academic Standing Committee will review and go from there. In addition, prompt around inviting AIA participants to be included in the committee meetings/discussion. There was a question as to the position of the union, and a note specific to “management right” in the MCCC contract was mentioned. One of the myths to work through as part of the diligence: while faculty might believe sparing a student a failing grade “helps,” a withdrawal still impacts federal financial aid (SAP – Satisfactory Academic Progress), and could impact MassReconnect (falling below 6 credits), and there is also the anecdotal of faculty withdrawing students for code of conduct matters.

Also discussed was overall participation in AUC Committee meetings, and therefore, if and how recommendations are thoroughly discussed and vetted. Question: there are vacant spots on the Academic Standing Committee as an example – Cabinet members shared they very much invite and encourage participation. AUC Interim Staff Co-Chair, Amanda Dufault shared that she sat on the employee service meeting and no one showed up, which led to a conversation not about the Shared Governance Council, but about All-Unit Congress Committee functioning.



#### **iv. In-progress: Spanish Materials Translation**

In a call for agenda items prior to the SGC meeting, it appeared the AUC was asking for a review of a recommendation (SGC form was filled out) specific to the translation of Spanish/language materials. It was later clarified that the AUC was seeking a conversation, as opposed to the submission of a formalized recommendation.

As part of the clarification, AUC leadership described how HAHE (an Employee Resource Group), went to the AUC DEI Committee to discuss a recommendation. However, due to a lack of attendance, the recommendation was instead routed/vetted at the AUC General Assembly. Many people abstained, but the AUC used this forum to check for consensus. A number of questions arose:

- Does the AUC process (Committee/General Assembly) comport with their bylaws?
- Role of the AUC DEI Committee (part of a governance body), versus AIA@STCC (an employee resource group);
- By way of the agenda, other areas of vetting needed for this particular recommendation:

What would be the definition of a “point person” and does that apply to all academic departments, including faculty/Chairs-Coordinators?

Ensure an opportunity for Cabinet member designees to contribute, including how a system would potentially be established, by whom, for updating forms, how translation services are funded, etc.

Are there parallel language translation needs be considered (e.g. Russian, Ukrainian, Vietnamese?)

#### **v. Other**

- a. Included on the agenda, as a reminder, a list of other governance/leadership forums.
- b. Status of NECHE Notice of Concern – as noted on the agenda – official notification is not likely until the end of 2023 / early 2024.
- c. Tenure: an example of governance that lives within a contract – there are established role and responsibilities (by faculty/peers; by administration; by Trustees).

#### **vi. Next Steps**

It is unlikely that the Council will meet again in the Fall unless there are formal recommendations to consider. Idea is for diligence to be managed (as invited/encouraged by the recommendation form) prior to a high-level recommendation landing in front of the SGC.

As noted on the agenda, recommendations to the SGC are welcome at any time.