

University Senate

Proposed: March 8, 2019

Adopted:

### **MEETING OF FEBRUARY 8, 2019**

Standing in for President Lee Bollinger, Executive Committee Chair Sharyn O'Halloran (Ten., SIPA) called the Senate to order shortly after 1:15 p.m. in Davis Auditorium, in the Schapiro Engineering Building (CEPSR). Sixty-eight of 104 senators were present during the meeting.

**Minutes and agenda.** The agenda and the minutes of December 8, 2018 were adopted as proposed.

**Executive Committee chair's remarks.** Sen. O'Halloran said the president was traveling and had sent his regrets. Provost Coatsworth was prepared to answer questions.

Sen. David Cheng (Stu., Social Work), noting recent progress on the policy on sexual and romantic relationships between faculty (or staff) and undergraduate students, asked if there was a timeline for the Office of General Counsel to develop a related policy for graduate students.

Sen. O'Halloran noted that the OGC is drafting a policy, but that the timeline depends upon the new city and state legislation on sexual harassment that is now coming into effect. She said that would be the likely answer from OGC.

The provost said he was not in charge of the process of making sure that Columbia's rules conform to federal, state, and local laws. But he expected to have a draft policy sometime this semester.

Sen. O'Halloran referred inquiries to EVP for University Life Suzanne Goldberg, as well as OGC.

#### **New business.**

*Report from Sen. Zoha Qamar (Stu., SEAS): Sanitary Items at Columbia: History and Proposal.* Referring to [slides](#) that were projected on a screen, Sen. Qamar reviewed an ultimately successful three-year effort by undergraduate students to institute a policy to provide free pads and tampons in bathrooms on the Morningside campus. She was accompanied by two Columbia College students, Columbia College Student Council member Aja Johnson and Sen. Danielle Resheff, who had also worked on this project.

Sen. O'Halloran praised the work of Sen. Qamar and fellow students, and thanked EVP for Facilities David Greenberg and Vice President for Campus Services Scott Wright for their support of the project.

Sen. Andrew Marks (Ten., P&S) asked if the new policy would extend to the medical campus. Sen. Qamar said the goal was to roll out the new policy to as much of the University as possible.

Sen. Marks asked if the students had requested funds from the Medical School.

Sen. Qamar said she would be happy to work with Sen. Jacqueline de Vegvar (Stu., P&S) on this effort.

Sen. Suzanne Goldberg and Sen. de Vegvar congratulated the students on their work. There was applause.

**Other business.**

*Nominations for honorary degrees.* Sen. Debra Wolgemuth (Ten., P&S), chair of the Honors and Prizes Committee, appealed to the Senate to respond to a forthcoming annual request from University Secretary Jerome Davis for nominations for honorary degrees. She reminded senators that any member of the University community—including alumni—can make such nominations. She listed the categories of the honorary degrees: the Medal of Excellence, for a graduate under the age of 45; an award for an emeritus professor, and awards in the arts, public life and government, the humanities, and the natural and applied sciences. She said any member of the Senate staff would be happy to help with the nomination process. She said the 15-member Honors and Prizes Committee reviews these nominations, and makes recommendations to the president of the University.

There being no further business, Sen. O'Halloran adjourned the meeting shortly before 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Mathewson, Senate staff