

Faculty Senate Committee for the Status of Faculty of Color

2023-24 Year End Report

Submitted By – Tara N. Tripp, Chair

May 3, 2024

Members:

David W. Brown

Sonja Peterson-Lewis

Karen M. Turner

Donna Marie Peters

Uloma K Opara-Osuoha

Ashley Gardner

Wayne Williams

Lauren G. Johnson

Kimmika L.H. Williams-Witherspoon

Fall 2023-Spring 24 Meetings Recap:

Two meetings were held virtually this semester with 3-4 members present for each meeting. Discussions were held on FOC events and advocacy on campus. Many of FOC's members were not able to meet via Zoom due to scheduling conflicts, however updates/minutes were sent out to committee members routinely.

Members Present September/October, 2023 Zoom Meetings:

Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon

David W. Brown

Tara N. Tripp

The fall semester got off to a busy start, with FOC planning several events focusing on raising awareness about social issues facing the Temple Community. One event that FOC planned was for October 12, 2023, that highlighted the work of Ms. Toni Willis of Ardella's House. Ms. Willis runs a nonprofit recovery house for formerly incarcerated women in North Philadelphia. Unfortunately, this event was postponed due to the death of President Epps. FOC member Tara N. Tripp took the lead in organizing this event and notified Ms. Willis of the cancellation and secured Ms. Willis for any future guest speaking opportunities.

Following the death of President Epps, FOC members began planning an event that could serve as a safe space for faculty/students to share memories/experiences of President Epps along with a discussion on the mental well-being of people of color working in Academia. FOC member Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon took the lead to organize this event.

A discussion was also held on revisiting the Triennial Symposium – as FOC has held this event in the past but the event has been paused due to Covid, and other activities on campus that were deemed more pressing. FOC members thought it may be better to hold the symposium during the Fall of 2024. FOC member Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon took the lead and will look into securing funding/location for the symposium.

Due to the importance of the Mayoral Election in Philadelphia, FOC planned for the November Race in the Race event. FOC member David Brown took the lead and will reach out to his network for a guest speaker.

Fall 2023 FOC Events- Revised

Oct 12, 2023—People of Color in the Academy: Remembering President Joanne Epps. We provided a space for faculty/employees/students to remember & honor the legacy of President Epps, and the impact that she had on the Temple university community.

November 9, 2023 - The November 9th Race in the Race event featured a conversation with award-winning Inquirer Columnist Jenice Armstrong moderated by Professor David W. Brown.

Spring 2024

FOC met in February of 2024

Present:

Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon
David Brown
Ashley Gardner
Lauren Johnson
Sonja Peterson-Lewis
Omeed Firouzi
Tara N. Tripp

FOC welcomed many new members to the committee:

Ashley Gardner
Wayne Williams
Lauren G. Johnson
Omeed Firouzi

Two future FOC Chat events were discussed:

The first event was a collaboration with IDEAL and the Center for Anti Racism on Plight & Power – The attack on Women in Higher Education. This event was held on March 25, 2024 in the office of IDEAL. FOC member Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon took the lead on this event.

The second event was the April Chat – focusing on Mind, Body, and Well Being – renewing and restoring – at Blockson Library – more planning was needed.

Additionally, FOC discussed more details for the proposed **Triennial Symposium**:

October 29, 2024 is the proposed date.

Topics – housing, health care, education, and/or institutional censoring.
Co-Sponsors Suggested

TWOC – FOC member Kimmika Williams Witherspoon will take the lead with reaching out to co-sponsors- Ideal & ACCORD – Karen Turner (FOC)

Keynote Speaker suggested by FOC member Sonja Peterson-Lewis – Journalist Hala Gorani

Location – FOC member Ashley Gardner took the lead to narrow down a location & will check (STHM) (Deb Blair)

Due to scheduling conflicts – no FOC meetings were held in March/April 2024

FOC held its final meeting on May 2, 2024

Purpose was to recap the 2023 year and beginning planning for the upcoming academic year.

Members Present:

David Brown

Ashley Gardner

Tara N. Tripp

On the agenda for Fall 2024- Spring 2025

Possibly pushing Triennial Symposium to Spring 2025 to allow for more planning and possible funding sources.

Our October event will focus on voter registration & partner with other University programs focusing on getting students registered to vote – there is a push to begin this process as soon as the academic year begins in August. This will be an entire FOC planned and led event.

Our November event will highlight the role that Philadelphia will play in the upcoming Presidential Election – FOC member David Brown will reach out to the Committee of Seventy and City Commissioner for Elections/Voting.

Finally, FOC member David Brown has successfully finalized the move of the Office of ACORD (Academic Center on Research Diversity) to a space in Ritter Hall which is now ready to partner with FOC on upcoming events. FOC member David Brown will take the lead with this collaboration.