

Faculty Senate Steering Committee  
Tuesday, March 14, 2023 – 1:00 pm  
Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon (Pres., TFMA), Shohreh Amini (V. President, CST), Quaiser Abdullah (Secy., KMC), Rafael Porrata-Doria (Past-Pres., Law), Cheri Carter (SSW), Heath Davis (CLA), Dale Haines (LKSM), Di Liu (CEHD), Barry McCarthy (Law), George Miller (Ed., Faculty Herald, KMC), Sharyn O'Mara (TYL), Vallorie Peridier (COE), Rick Ridall (STHM), Michael Schirmer (FSBM), Jeffrey Solow (BCMD) Ryan Tierney (CPH),

**Absent:** Nicholas Bizzaro (KSoD), Jason Gallagher (Pharm), Shinya Watanabe (TUJ)

**Admin:** Cheryl Mack

**Guests:** Mark Rahdert, Chair, Personnel Committee (PC); Steve Newman, Chair, Educational Programs and Policies Committee (EPPC); Joseph DuCette, Chair, Assessment of Instruction Committee (AIC)

Meeting Called to Order: 1:02pm

- **Motion:** Request to approve Minutes of February 28, 2023
  - **Minutes approved by unanimous vote**
- President's Report
  - Master Plan Working Group Committee met on March 1 – Discussed green space and other faculty requests. Discussion of increase in green space on campus and sustainability in new and older buildings
  - Medical Oncology dept approved to be larger – Details not available
  - Doctorate in Education and Leadership approved in CEHD; Bachelor's in music and Live Entertainment in Klein approved;
  - Discussion on Mental Health Initiative and Blue-Ribbon Commission on Safety discussed
  - 1.7 million given to Temple by Gov. Shapiro. Majority will go to lighting and to hiring new officers
- Vice-President's Report
  - List of candidates presented
    - Jay Lunden – Adjunct Constituency Concerns
    - Ksenia Power – International Programs
    - Rebecca Operacz – Faculty Herald
    - Matt Wray – Gen Ed Committee
    - Jun Yu – Budget Review
  - **Motion: Approve list of proposed candidates**
    - **Approved by unanimous consent**
- Guests:
  - Mark Rahdert, Chair, Personnel Committee
    - Shared overview of Personnel Committee (Deals with matters pertaining to faculty status and performance). Individuals can appeal to PC on matters pertaining to denial of tenure and promotion; academic conduct. May play a role in faculty research misconduct investigations
    - Questions:

- Would faculty use of AI inappropriately fall under the purview of this committee?
    - If there is a complaint to this committee, it would be reviewed to determine jurisdiction by counsel. If committee has jurisdiction, it would then be investigated for probable cause. If it moves forward, there would be an inquiry and recommendations on outcomes. Report will then go to president.
  - Does a negative 3-year review fall under the purview of PC if faculty has issue with the review?
    - If a promotion was attached to the review, then it would be in the purview of the PC.
  - Is university counsel part of PC?
    - No, university counsel is not part of PC. Consulted as needed. Deliberations occur within faculty.
- Steve Newman, Chair, EPPC
  - Shared info on work of EPPC
    - Submitted proposal on changes to the matrix
      - EPPC gave feedback to Deb Cai. Deb revised the proposal. Proposal submitted to FSSC exec committee
    - Submitted inquiry on Intellectual Property to central admin
    - Discussed Gen Ed concerns and approaches
    - Discussed policy on academic freedom
    - Future conversation on distance education
    - Future discussion on ChatGPT and AI
  - Questions
    - The charge to EPPC was to get more info on IP. What exactly was submitted?
      - There were questions asked to central admin pertaining to IP.
    - What other universities were looked at pertaining to comparative IP policies?
      - Willing to look at additional institutions and share. Inquired if there are specific universities to be reviewed
- Joe DuCette, Chair, Assessment of Instruction Committee
  - Gave background on AIC (Provide advice to FS and admin)
  - Four goals over past few years:
    - Revise SFF
    - Create document to describe student feedback data and how data should be used
    - Create document/handbook highlighting additional ways to assess teaching (Target: End of Spring 2023)
    - Review reporting form that instructors receive that contain student feedback data (After next meeting, recommendations will be sent to FS and Provost)
      - Instructors will be able to choose comparison groups
  - Proposal to remove UML. Hope is to make SFS fair and unbiased as possible

- Discussion on peer evaluation – formative vs summative evaluations and the role they play depending on the level of faculty being observed
  - Student perception that feedback on SFF had no bearing on performance. Committee attempting to counteract that perception
  - 50% threshold for completion across university not met in recent semesters
  - Questions:
    - Is there an app that is being developed for students to complete feedback?
      - Students can complete on their phones via TUportal
    - Is there an option for mid-semester feedback?
      - It is a recommendation in the document produced by the committee
- New Business
  - Nomination and Election Committee
    - Thanks extended to members of the committee
    - Slate presented: Shohreh Amini (President), Quaiser Abdullah (VP) and Rick Ridall (Secretary)
  - Questions and concerns from Tyler and other colleges pertaining to Faculty Senate and discontentment with TU administration
    - Question – Should there be a statement on why the senate has not taken a lead on the conversation pertaining to faculty concerns?
      - There is no place to go to have the conversation
      - FS should be creating a space for the conversation
    - Misconception around what does it mean to get involved in the senate
    - Sentiments that Faculty Senate is not doing its job and not taking lead on faculty issue conversation
      - Clarifying questions – What is the FS? What can we (FS) do? How can other faculty get involved?
  - Discussion on whether there should be a faculty meeting alone or a meeting with admin. Insights shared on the various types of grievances
  - **Motion: Convene special 1-hour meeting of FSSC to discuss role in supporting faculty around current concerns**
    - **Motion Carries: Executive Committee will identify a time to convene a special FSSC meeting to discuss next steps**
- Old Business
  - NA

Meeting Adjourned: 3:04pm

Respectfully Submitted

Quaiser Abdullah

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