

Minutes of the Faculty Senate Steering Committee
Tuesday, September 3, 2024
Via Zoom only
Submitted by Robin Kolodny

Present: Shohreh Amini (President, CST), Mike Bognanno (Vice President, CLA), Robin Kolodny (Secretary, CLA), Lisa Ferretti (SSW), Jason Gallagher (Pharm), Dale Haines (LKSM), Di Liu (CEHD), Lu Lu (STHM), Barry McCarthy (Law), Sharyn O'Mara (TYL), Michael Schirmer (FSBM), Jeffrey Solow (BCMD) Ryan Tierney (CPH),

Absent: Rafael Porrata-Doria (Past-President, Law), TBN (KMC), Fauzia Ahmad (COE), Nicholas Bizzaro (KSoD), Stan McDonald (Fac. Herald), Matthew Miller (TFMA),

Absent Excused: Shinya Watanabe (TUJ)

Admin: Cheryl Mack

1. Call to Order:

Senate President Shohreh Amini called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes:

The Minutes from the FSSC meeting on April 23, 2024, were approved.

3. President's Report: Shohreh Amini

a. Announcement of the new President. John Fry will take office on November 1, 2024. We will invite him to the University Senate meeting in December.

b. Engagement with the Board of Trustees. President Amini joined the Executive Committee for the Board of Trustees in April 2024 and has attended full meetings since. She also spoke to the chair of the subcommittee on faculty governance. They plan to have two faculty members sit with them. Those faculty members will not always be the president of the faculty senate. They want to stagger the start terms so faculty will have some institutional memory.

c. The Executive Committee of the FSSC met a few times over the summer, once with the Provost. We straightened out confusion about rumored travel restrictions (we found that it did not apply to faculty, only staff) and asked about a potential merger with UArts. We have 330 students from the University of the Arts and remain concerned that the relevant schools and colleges are short in lab space. Dick Englert emailed the university community that there will be no merger. As UArts moves to bankruptcy, Temple might try to purchase some of their real estate.

d. Scheduling guests for future FSSC meetings.

The committee reviewed and discussed the invitations to guests.

September 17: Provost Greg Mandel. Confirmed.

October 1: The new Dean of the Graduate School, Rene Tobin, is confirmed. Please email Cheryl/Shohreh if you have specific areas that you want her to address. Could the Dean of the Graduate School talk about graduate funding, specifically the number of project completion grants and how they are managed, the number of fellowships they will offer, etc.?

October 15: Jose Aviles, the Vice Provost of Enrollment Management. Confirmed.

The remaining dates are October 29, November 12th (6 to 8 p.m. on Zoom), and December 3rd.

Liz Taylor, Temple's representative to the NCAA, can present on either Oct. 29 or Dec. 3rd.

Deans Cahan (Tyler) and Stroker (Boyer) agreed to give an update about UArts. It needs to be scheduled.

e. Scheduling for full Senate Meetings.

Just like last semester, we will have a couple of faculty-led forums. The discussion concerned how many faculty forums we would have and potential issues such as research, the research office, and intellectual property.

Suggestions included:

- Full Senate meeting on Football. Will include presentations about brain injury research (January)
- The Dean of Students to talk about the general activities fund.
- Another forum on the budget, inviting the Director of Finance.
- Mitch Morgan (or some other trustees) to the first full Senate meeting in September.
- Faculty wanted to make a presentation about a sustainability initiative, but FSSC would talk to the Provost about this first.

f. The current membership of FSSC was discussed at several points during the meeting.

We have a new member from STHM, Lu Lu.

Lisa Ferretti is rejoining us from the School of Social Work.

Michael L. Schirmer confirmed he is serving a second term as Fox's representative. Someone from the college needs to confirm it.

No representatives attended from: Dentistry, Engineering, TFMA, Podiatry, and Klein College of Communications.

Klein college said there is a meeting next week about it. The Dean of Podiatry was contacted about a representative, but he has yet to respond.

There was no one present in the role of Past President.

The schools and colleges are slow in giving us Lists of Representative faculty senators and current collegial chairs. We are missing more than half of the representatives' names, and the meeting is on September 23rd.

g. Board of Trustee committees request faculty members. The FSSC members on Board Committees agreed to remain on those committees this year. Cheryl Mack will send the list to the University Secretary's office ~~post the list~~.

h. Committee on Adjunct Constituency Concerns asked us to supply them with a list of adjunct teaching awards from colleges and schools. The Provost has created an adjunct teaching award, but colleges have not. One member volunteered to create such a document.

4. Vice President's Report

Reviewed the list of committee vacancies circulated to faculty before the meeting. we have some candidates to consider for appointments. For the Personnel Committee, Glen Gerhard, a professor at the School of Medicine, and Darius Balciunas in Biology,

There was discussion about the current composition of the Personnel Committee and whether the FSSC should appoint candidates now or wait for a ballot to be generated in the spring of 2025. Personnel Committee Chair McCarthy (Law) asked if Sharyn O'Mara was willing to continue to serve on the committee.

A motion was offered to approve Sharon O'Mara (Tyler) and Glenn Gerhard (Medicine) 's appointments to the personnel committee for the Fall of 2024 and to put Darius Balciunas on the ballot in the spring of 2025. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Names of candidates for GEEC (General Education) were submitted by that body's director. The candidates submitted their materials. We approved the appointments of Tim Patterson and Christina Owings. unanimously.

The committee discussed an allegation by a (now former) university employee that she was terminated for chalking a message on a university building when Donald Trump was speaking on campus. She was brought to the Temple Police Station, given a citation, and subsequently terminated.

The committee discussed sending this information to Jen Wood, Vice Provost for Faculty.

5. New Business

The document on misconduct in research and creative work is poorly drafted and needs considerable rewriting. It contains some ambiguities, apparent contradictions, and gaps in meaning, and it is difficult to follow. The Chair of the Personnel Committee will contact University Council.

One member noted that Josh Gladden, head of the research office, is finding similar problems and trying to fix them. We should consult and inform him about revising research policy documents.

6. Old business

In the spring of 2024. The past president said that he was willing to facilitate a meeting with the Senate Committee chairs. Many of the committee chairs don't know what's expected of them, or the information is not passed on, so new committee chairs don't know what to do, especially when it comes to lectures and forums. The meeting did not take place..

There is a draft document about the role of the FFSC Representative. It will be circulated for comment.

We also need a committee for the faculty service awards soon. Previous committee members present agreed to serve once again. Faculty Senate website development project has not progressed. A job description should be circulated for a web designer.

In the April 23, 2024, minutes, we noted low attendance at representative faculty Senate meetings. We discussed talking to the provost's office about meeting space. Several meeting locations have problems with cost or technology set ups. The Charles Library meeting room is booked for September 23rd and December 12th, but the October date wasn't available.

Some technical difficulties could be worked out if we had presentation slides in advance. We will encourage presenters to send slides in advance.

5. Adjournment:

There was a motion to adjourn. The motion was approved, and the meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Next Meetings:

FSSC: Tuesday, September 17, 2024 – 1:00 pm, Conwell Hall, Rm. 3B

Representative Faculty Senate: Monday, September 23, 2024, 1:435 pm, Charles Events,
Rm. 120