

AY 2022-23 Report for the Faculty Senate Committee on Faculty Disabilities Concerns

Our committee met every month for an hour throughout the 2022-23 academic year.

The committee comprises:

- Debra Blair (returning member)
- Christine Cleaver (new in 2022-23 AY)
- Jaggar DeMarco (graduate student, new in 2022-23 AY)
- Lisa Ferretti (new in 2022-23 AY)
- Kate Fialkowski (just separated from Temple)
- Declan Gould (new in 2022-23 AY)
- Douglas Greenfield (chair in 2022-23 and continuing as chair in 2023-24)
- Mark Salzer (returning member)
- Carrie Snyder (ex officio)

Much of the discussion and work of the present year was devoted to the responsibility the University has to build a welcoming and inclusive disability culture, especially given the dramatic rise in the number of students, faculty, and staff identifying as disabled or temporarily disabled. (It is, in an era of dramatic enrollment declines, an opportunity to differentiate Temple as well.) The disability community remains marginalized at the University, despite high-profile initiatives to foster diversity and inclusion in other areas. For example, the IDEAL website features the Center for Anti-Racism and both Gender and Sexuality and Interfaith inclusion centers (both supported by graduate externs), while disability is represented only by a link to DRS (signaling only a legal obligation to disabled students – not a commitment to create a culture of disability for the entire community). We looked closely at Disability Cultural Centers at other schools as potential models for Temple. At a minimum, we will be requesting that IDEAL allow us to develop and populate a Disability Inclusion Center page for the IDEAL site. We will also be seeking funding for a graduate extern for disability inclusion. We regretted that the IOD's annual Disability and Change Symposium was not held this year and we will be offering our support to bring it back next spring.